

CLAIMS

1. A data providing system for distributing  
content data from a data providing apparatus to a data  
processing apparatus and managing said data providing  
5 apparatus and said data processing apparatus by a  
management apparatus, wherein

said management apparatus prepares a key file  
storing encrypted content key data and encrypted usage  
control policy data indicating handling of said content  
10 data,

said data providing apparatus provides said  
content data encrypted by using said content key data,  
and

said data processing apparatus decrypts said  
15 content key data and said usage control policy data  
stored in said key file and determines the handling of  
said content data based on the related decrypted usage  
control policy data.

2. A data providing system as set forth in claim  
20 1, wherein said management apparatus adds signature data  
for verification of the legitimacy of the producer of the  
key file to the key file.

3. A data providing system as set forth in claim  
1, wherein said data providing apparatus prepares a  
25 content file storing the content data and provides the

content file to the data processing apparatus.

4. A data providing system as set forth in claim 3, wherein said data providing apparatus adds signature data for verification of the legitimacy of the producer of the content file to the content file.

5. A data providing system as set forth in claim 1, wherein

the data providing apparatus prepares usage control policy data and sends it to said management apparatus,

said data processing apparatus determines at least one of the purchase form and the usage form of the distributed content data based on the usage control policy data and sends log data showing the log of at least one of the purchase form and usage form decided to said management apparatus, and

said management apparatus performs profit distribution processing for distributing the profit obtained along with the purchase and usage of the content data in the data processing apparatus to the interested parties of the data providing apparatus based on the received log data.

6. A data providing system for distributing content data from a data providing apparatus to a data processing apparatus and managing said data providing

apparatus and said data processing apparatus by a management apparatus, wherein

5       said management apparatus prepares a key file storing encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating handling of said content data,

10       said data providing apparatus distributes a module storing a content file storing the content data encrypted by using said content key data and said key file received from said management apparatus to said data processing apparatus, and

15       said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed module and determines the handling of said content data based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

20       7.    A data providing system as set forth in claim 6, wherein said management apparatus generates signature data for verifying the legitimacy of the producer of the key file and prepares the key file further storing that signature data.

8.    A data providing system as set forth in claim 6, wherein

25       the data providing apparatus generates said content key data and usage control policy data and sends

said management apparatus prepares said key file based on said received content key data and usage control policy data and registers the prepared key file.

10. A data providing system as set forth in claim 9, wherein said data processing apparatus verifies the signature data stored in the module to verify at least one of the legitimacy of a producer and distributor of the content file and a producer and distributor of the key file.

distributes said distribution use key data to  
said data processing apparatus.

25            12. A data providing system as set forth in claim

6, wherein said management apparatus and said data processing apparatus comprise a plurality of distribution use key data of defined periods of validity and use distribution use key data of corresponding periods.

5           13. A data providing system as set forth in claim 11, wherein

              said data providing apparatus prepares signature data using its own secret key data and

              said data processing apparatus verifies the  
10      legitimacy of the signature data using public key data corresponding to said secret key data.

              14. A data providing system for distributing content data from a data providing apparatus to a data processing apparatus and managing said data providing  
15      apparatus and said data processing apparatus by a management apparatus, wherein

              said management apparatus prepares a key file storing encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating handling of said content  
20      data,

              said data providing apparatus distributes a module storing a content file containing content data encrypted by using said content key data and the key file received from said management apparatus to said data  
25      processing apparatus, and

said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed module and determines the handling of said content data based on the related  
5 decrypted usage control policy data.

15. A data providing system for distributing content data from a data providing apparatus to a data processing apparatus and managing said data providing apparatus and said data processing apparatus by a  
10 management apparatus, wherein

said management apparatus prepares a key file storing encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating handling of said content data,

15 said data providing apparatus individually distributes the content file storing the content data encrypted by using said content key data and said key file received from said management apparatus to said data processing apparatus, and

20 said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed key file and determines the handling of the content data stored in said distributed content file based on the related decrypted usage control  
25 policy data.

16. A data providing system for distributing content data from a data providing apparatus to a data processing apparatus and managing said data providing apparatus and said data processing apparatus by a

5 management apparatus, wherein

said management apparatus prepares a key file storing encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating handling of said content data and distributes the related prepared key file to

10 said data processing apparatus,

said data providing apparatus distributes a content file storing the content data encrypted by using said content key data to said data processing apparatus, and

15 said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed key file and determines the handling of the content data stored in said distributed content file based on the related decrypted usage control

20 policy data.

17. A data providing system for distributing content data from a data providing apparatus to a data processing apparatus and managing said data providing apparatus and said data processing apparatus by a

25 management apparatus, wherein

said management apparatus prepares a key file storing encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating handling of said content data,

5           said data providing apparatus distributes a module storing the content data encrypted by using said content key data and said key file received from said management apparatus to said data processing apparatus, and

10           said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed module and determines the handling of said content data based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

15           18. A data providing system for distributing content data from a data providing apparatus to a data processing apparatus and managing said data providing apparatus and said data processing apparatus by a management apparatus, wherein

20           said management apparatus prepares a key file storing encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating handling of said content data,

            said data providing apparatus individually  
25 distributes the content data encrypted by using said

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content key data and said key file received from said management apparatus to said data processing apparatus, and

5       said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed key file and determines the handling of said distributed content data based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

19.   A data providing system for distributing  
10   content data from a data providing apparatus to a data processing apparatus and managing said data providing apparatus and said data processing apparatus by a management apparatus, wherein

      said management apparatus prepares a key file  
15   storing encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating handling of said content data and distributes the related prepared key file to said data processing apparatus,

      said data processing apparatus distributes the  
20   content data encrypted by using said content key data to said data processing apparatus, and

      said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed key file and determines the  
25   handling of said distributed content data based on the

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related decrypted usage control policy data.

20. A data providing system for distributing content data from a data providing apparatus to a data processing apparatus and managing said data providing apparatus and said data processing apparatus by a management apparatus, wherein

said management apparatus prepares encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating handling of said content data,

said data providing apparatus individually distributes the content data encrypted by using said content key data, said encrypted content key data received from said management apparatus, and said encrypted usage control policy data to said data processing apparatus, and

said data processing apparatus decrypts said distributed content key data and said usage control policy data and determines the handling of the content data stored in said distributed content file based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

21. A data providing system for distributing content data from a data providing apparatus to a data processing apparatus and managing said data providing apparatus and said data processing apparatus by a management apparatus, wherein

said management apparatus prepares encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating handling of said content data and distributes the same to said data processing apparatus,

5           said data providing apparatus distributes the content data encrypted by using said content key data to said data processing apparatus, and

          said data processing apparatus decrypts said distributed content key data and said usage control  
10 policy data and determines the handling of said distributed content data based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

22. A data providing system comprising a data providing apparatus, a data distribution apparatus, a  
15 data processing apparatus, and a management apparatus, wherein

          said management apparatus prepares a key file storing encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said  
20 content data,

          said data providing apparatus provides said content data encrypted by using said content key data,

          said data distribution apparatus distributes said provided content data to said data processing  
25 apparatus, and

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22, wherein

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[illegible]

distributes the prepared second module to said data processing apparatus.

25. A data providing system as set forth in claim 22, wherein said data distribution apparatus distributes said second module further storing price data showing the price of the content data to said data processing apparatus.

26. A data providing system as set forth in claim 25, wherein said data distribution apparatus determines the price data based on a wholesale price determined for said content data by said data providing apparatus.

27. A data providing system as set forth in claim 22, wherein said data providing apparatus provides a first module further storing signature data for verifying the legitimacy of a producer and transmitter of at least one data of the content data, content key data, and usage control policy data to said data distribution apparatus.

28. A data providing system as set forth in claim 22, wherein said data distribution apparatus provides said second module further storing signature data for verifying the legitimacy of a producer and transmitter of at least one data among the content data, content key data, and usage control policy data to said data processing apparatus.

29. A data providing system as set forth in claim

22, wherein

said data processing apparatus determines at least one of the purchase form and the usage form of the distributed content data based on the usage control policy data and sends log data showing the log of at least one of the purchase form and usage form decided to said management apparatus and

said management apparatus performs profit distribution processing for distributing the profit obtained along with the purchase and usage of the content data in the data processing apparatus to the interested parties of the data providing apparatus and data distribution apparatus based on the received log data.

30. A data providing system as set forth in claim 22, wherein

said data processing apparatus sends distribution use log data relating to the distribution of the data distribution apparatus to said data distribution apparatus and

said data distribution apparatus performs charge processing relating to that distribution based on the distribution use log data.

31. A data providing system for providing content data from a data providing apparatus to a data distribution apparatus, distributing the content data

from said data distribution apparatus to a data processing apparatus, and managing said data providing apparatus, said data distribution apparatus, and said data processing apparatus by a management apparatus,

5 wherein

said management apparatus prepares a key file storing encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data,

10 said data providing apparatus provides a first module storing a content file storing the content data encrypted by using said content key data and said key file received from said management apparatus to said data distribution apparatus,

15 said data distribution apparatus distributes a second module storing said provided content file and said key file to said data processing apparatus, and

said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed second module and determines the handling of said content data stored in said distributed second module based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

32. A data providing system as set forth in claim 25 31, wherein

said data providing apparatus produces said content key data and said usage control policy data and sends them to said management apparatus and

said management apparatus produces said key  
5 file based on said received content key data and usage control policy data and registers said received content key data and usage control policy data.

33. A data providing system as set forth in claim 31, wherein said data providing apparatus prepares  
10 signature data for verifying at least one of the legitimacy of a producer and distributor of the content key file and the distributor of the key file and distributes said first module further storing the signature data to said data processing apparatus.

15 34. A data providing system as set forth in claim 31, wherein said data providing apparatus prepares signature data for verifying at least one of the legitimacy of a producer and distributor of the content key file and the distributor of the key file and  
20 distributes said second module further storing the signature data to said data processing apparatus.

35. A data providing system as set forth in claim 33, wherein

said data providing apparatus prepares  
25 signature data using its own secret key data and



said data processing apparatus verifies the legitimacy of the signature data using public key data corresponding to said secret key data.

36. A data providing system as set forth in claim  
5 33, wherein

said data providing apparatus distributes said module further storing public key certificate data for certifying the legitimacy of the public key data to said data processing apparatus and

10 said data processing apparatus verifies the signature data using the public key data stored in the distributed public key certificate data.

37. A data providing system as set forth in claim  
36, wherein

15 said management apparatus distributes public key certificate data for certifying the legitimacy of the public key data to said data processing apparatus and

said data processing apparatus verifies the signature data using the public key data stored in the  
20 distributed public key certificate data.

38. A data providing system as set forth in claim  
33, wherein

said data distribution apparatus prepares said signature data using its own secret key data and

25 said data processing apparatus verifies the

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legitimacy of the signature data using public key data corresponding to said secret key data.

39. A data providing system as set forth in claim 38, wherein

5           said data distribution apparatus distributes said module further storing public key certificate data for certifying the legitimacy of the public key data to said data processing apparatus and

10           said data processing apparatus verifies the signature data using the public key data stored in the distributed public key certificate data.

40. A data providing system as set forth in claim 38, wherein

15           said management apparatus distributes said public key certificate data for certifying the legitimacy of the public key data to said data processing apparatus and

20           said data processing apparatus verifies the signature data using the public key data stored in the distributed public key certificate data.

41. A data providing system as set forth in claim 31, wherein

25           said data processing apparatus determines at least one of the purchase form and the usage form of the distributed content data based on the usage control

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policy data and sends log data showing the log of at least one of the purchase form and usage form decided to said management apparatus, and

said management apparatus performs profit  
5 distribution processing for distributing the profit obtained along with the purchase and usage of the content data in the data processing apparatus to the interested parties of the data providing apparatus and the data distribution apparatus based on the received log data.

10 42. A data providing system as set forth in claim 31, wherein said data distribution apparatus distributes said second module further storing price data showing the price of the content data to said data processing apparatus.

15 43. A data providing system as set forth in claim 42, wherein said management apparatus registers the price data received from said data distribution device.

44. A data providing system as set forth in claim 31, wherein said data processing apparatus comprises a  
20 module giving resistance to outside monitoring and tampering of the processing content, predetermined data stored in an internal memory, and data being processed.

45. A data providing system for providing content data from a data providing apparatus to a data  
25 distribution apparatus, distributing the content data

from said data distribution apparatus to a data processing apparatus, and managing said data providing apparatus, said data distribution apparatus, and said data processing apparatus by a management apparatus,

5 wherein

said management apparatus prepares a key file storing encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data,

10 said data providing apparatus provides a first module storing a content file containing the content data encrypted by using said content key data and a key file received from said management apparatus to said data distribution apparatus,

15 said data distribution apparatus distributes a second module storing said provided content file to said data processing apparatus, and

said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data  
20 stored in said distributed second module and determines the handling of said content data stored in said distributed second module based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

46. A data providing system for providing content  
25 data from a data providing apparatus to a data

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distribution apparatus, distributing the content data  
from said data distribution apparatus to a data  
processing apparatus, and managing said data providing  
apparatus, said data distribution apparatus, and said  
5 data processing apparatus by a management apparatus,  
wherein

said management apparatus prepares a key file  
storing encrypted content key data and encrypted usage  
control policy data indicating the handling of said  
10 content data,

said data providing apparatus individually  
distributes a content file storing the content data  
encrypted by using said content key data and said key  
file received from said management apparatus to said data  
15 distribution apparatus,

said data distribution apparatus individually  
distributes said distributed content file and key file to  
said data processing apparatus, and

said data processing apparatus decrypts said  
20 content key data and said usage control policy data  
stored in said distributed key file and determines the  
handling of the content data stored in said distributed  
content file based on the related decrypted usage control  
policy data.

25 47. A data providing system as set forth in claim

46, wherein said content file and said key file include data for clearing indicating their mutual correspondence.

48. A data providing system for distributing content data from a data providing apparatus to a data processing apparatus and managing said data providing apparatus and said data processing apparatus by a management apparatus, wherein

said management apparatus prepares a key file storing encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data and distributes the related prepared key file to said data processing apparatus,

said data providing apparatus provides a content file storing the content data encrypted by using said content key data to said data distribution apparatus,

said data distribution apparatus distributes said provided content file to said data processing apparatus, and

said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed key file and determines the handling of the content data stored in said distributed content file based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

49. A data providing system as set forth in claim 48, wherein said content file and said key file include data for clearing indicating their mutual correspondence.

50. A data providing system for providing content  
5 data from a data providing apparatus to a data  
distribution apparatus, distributing the content data  
from said data distribution apparatus to a data  
processing apparatus, and managing said data providing  
apparatus, said data distribution apparatus, and said  
10 data processing apparatus by a management apparatus,  
wherein

said management apparatus prepares a key file  
storing encrypted content key data and encrypted usage  
control policy data indicating the handling of said  
15 content data,

said data providing apparatus provides a first  
module storing the content data encrypted by using said  
content key data and said key file received from said  
management apparatus to said data distribution apparatus,

20 said data distribution apparatus distributes a  
second module storing said provided content data and said  
key file to said data processing apparatus, and

said data processing apparatus decrypts said  
content key data and said usage control policy data  
25 stored in said distributed second module and determines

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the handling of said content data stored in said distributed second module based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

51. A data providing system for providing content  
5 data from a data providing apparatus to a data distribution apparatus, distributing the content data from said data distribution apparatus to a data processing apparatus, and managing said data providing apparatus, said data distribution apparatus, and said  
10 data processing apparatus by a management apparatus, wherein

said management apparatus prepares a key file storing encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said  
15 content data,

said data providing apparatus individually distributes the content data encrypted by using said content key data and said key file received from said management apparatus to said data distribution apparatus,

20 said data distribution apparatus individually distributes said distributed content data and said key file to said data distribution apparatus, and

said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data  
25 stored in said distributed key file and determines the



handling of said distributed content data based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

52. A data providing system for distributing content data from a data providing apparatus to a data processing apparatus and managing said data providing apparatus and said data processing apparatus by a management apparatus, wherein

10 said management apparatus prepares a key file storing encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data and distributes the related prepared key file to said data processing apparatus,

15 said data processing apparatus provides the content data encrypted by using said content key data to said data distribution apparatus,

said data distribution apparatus distributes said provided content data to said data processing apparatus, and

20 said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed key file and determines the handling of said distributed content data based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

53. A data providing system for providing content data from a data providing apparatus to a data

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distribution apparatus, distributing the content data  
from said data distribution apparatus to a data  
processing apparatus, and managing said data providing  
apparatus, said data distribution apparatus, and said  
5 data processing apparatus by a management apparatus,  
wherein

said management apparatus provides encrypted  
content key data and encrypted usage control policy data  
indicating the handling of said content data to said data  
10 providing apparatus,

said data providing apparatus individually  
distributes the content data encrypted by using said  
content key data and said encrypted content key data and  
said encrypted usage control policy data received from  
15 said management apparatus to said data distribution  
apparatus,

said data distribution apparatus individually  
distributes said distributed content data, said encrypted  
content key data, and said encrypted usage control policy  
20 data to said data distribution apparatus, and

said data processing apparatus decrypts said  
distributed content key data and said usage control  
policy data and determines the handling of said  
distributed content data based on the related decrypted  
25 usage control policy data.

54. A data providing system for providing content data from a data providing apparatus to a data distribution apparatus, distributing the content data from said data distribution apparatus to a data processing apparatus, and managing said data providing apparatus, said data distribution apparatus, and said data processing apparatus by a management apparatus, wherein

10 said management apparatus provides encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data to said data processing apparatus,

15 said data providing apparatus provides the content data encrypted by using said content key data to said data distribution apparatus,

said data distribution apparatus distributes said provided content data to said data processing apparatus, and

20 said data processing apparatus decrypts said distribute said content key data and said usage control policy data and determines the handling of said distributed content data based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

55. A data providing apparatus, a data distribution apparatus, a management apparatus, and a data processing

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apparatus, wherein

said data providing apparatus provides master source data of content to said management apparatus,

said management apparatus manages said data  
5 providing apparatus, said data distribution apparatus,  
and said data processing apparatus, encrypts said  
provided master source data by using content key data to  
prepare content data, prepares a content file storing the  
related content data, prepares a key file storing said  
10 encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control  
policy data indicating the handling of said content data,  
and provides said content file and said key file to said  
data distribution apparatus,

said data distribution apparatus distributes  
15 said provided content file and said key file to said data  
processing apparatus, and

said data processing apparatus decrypts said  
content key data and said usage control policy data  
stored in said distributed key file and determines the  
20 handling of the content data stored in said distributed  
content file based on the related decrypted usage control  
policy data.

56. A data providing system as set forth in claim  
55, wherein

25 said management apparatus prepares a first

module storing said content file and said key file and provides said first module to said data distribution apparatus and

5       said data distribution apparatus produces a second module storing said content file and said key file stored in said first module and distributes it to said data processing apparatus.

57. A data providing system as set forth in claim 55, wherein said management apparatus

10       comprises at least one database among a database for storing and managing said content file, a database for storing and managing said key file, and a database for storing and managing said usage control policy data and

15       centrally manages at least one among said content file, said key file, and said usage control policy data by using a content identifier uniquely allocated to said content data.

58. A data providing system comprising a data  
20       providing apparatus, a data distribution apparatus, a management apparatus, and a data processing apparatus, wherein

      said data providing apparatus provides master source data of content to said management apparatus,  
25       said management apparatus manages said data

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providing apparatus, said data distribution apparatus,  
and said data processing apparatus, encrypts said  
provided master source data by using content key data to  
prepare content data, prepares a content file storing the  
5 related content data, prepares a key file storing said  
encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control  
policy data indicating the handling of said content data,  
provides said content file to said data distribution  
apparatus, and provides said key file to said data  
10 processing apparatus,

said data distribution apparatus distributes  
said provided content file to said data processing  
apparatus, and

said data processing apparatus decrypts said  
15 content key data and said usage control policy data  
stored in said distributed key file and determines the  
handling of the content data stored in said distributed  
content file based on the related decrypted usage control  
policy data.

20 59. A data providing system comprising a data  
providing apparatus, a data distribution apparatus, a  
management apparatus, and a data processing apparatus,  
wherein

said data providing apparatus provides a  
25 content file storing encrypted content data using content

key data to said management apparatus,

said management apparatus manages said data providing apparatus, said data distribution apparatus, and said data processing apparatus, prepares a key file  
5 storing said encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data, and provides said content file provided from said data providing apparatus and said prepared key file to said data distribution apparatus,

10 said data distribution apparatus distributes said provided content file and said key file to said data processing apparatus, and

said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data  
15 stored in said distributed key file and determines the handling of the content data stored in said distributed content file based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

60. A data providing system as set forth in claim  
20 59, wherein

said management apparatus prepares a first module storing said content file and said key file and provides said first module to said data distribution apparatus and

25 said data distribution apparatus produces a

61. A data providing system comprising a data  
5 providing apparatus, a data distribution apparatus, a  
management apparatus, and a data processing apparatus,  
wherein

said management apparatus manages said data providing apparatus, said data distribution apparatus, and said data processing apparatus, prepares a key file storing said encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data, provides said content file provided from said data providing apparatus to said data distribution apparatus, and provides said prepared key file to said data processing apparatus,

said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said provided key file and determines the



handling of the content data stored in said distributed content file based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

62. A data providing system comprising a data  
5 providing apparatus, a data distribution apparatus, a management apparatus, a database device, and a data processing apparatus, wherein

said data providing apparatus encrypts content data by using content key data, prepares a content file  
10 storing the related encrypted content data, and stores the related prepared content file and a key file provided from said management apparatus in said database device,

said management apparatus prepares the key file storing said encrypted content key data and encrypted  
15 usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data, and provides the related prepared key file to said data providing apparatus,

said data distribution apparatus distributes said content file and key file obtained from said  
20 database device to said data processing apparatus, and

said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed key file and determines the handling of the content data stored in said distributed  
25 content file based on the related decrypted usage control

policy data.

63. A data providing system comprising a data providing apparatus, a data distribution apparatus, a management apparatus, a database device, and a data  
5 processing apparatus, wherein

said data providing apparatus encrypts content data by using content key data, prepares a content file storing the related encrypted content data, and stores the related prepared content file in said database  
10 device,

said management apparatus prepares the key file storing said encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data and provides the related prepared key file  
15 to said data distribution apparatus,

said data distribution apparatus distributes said content file obtained from said database device and the key file provided from said data distribution apparatus to said data processing apparatus, and

20 said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed key file and determines the handling of the content data stored in said distributed content file based on the related decrypted usage control  
25 policy data.

64. A data providing system comprising a data providing apparatus, a data distribution apparatus, a management apparatus, a database device, and a data processing apparatus, wherein

5           said data providing apparatus encrypts content data by using content key data, prepares a content file storing the related encrypted content data, and stores the related prepared content file in said database device,

10           said management apparatus prepares the key file storing said encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data and provides the related prepared key file to said data processing apparatus,

15           said data distribution apparatus distributes said content file obtained from said database device and the key file provided from said data distribution apparatus to said data processing apparatus, and

            said data processing apparatus decrypts said  
20 content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said provided key file and determines the handling of the content data stored in said distributed content file based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

25           65. A data providing system comprising a plurality

of data providing apparatuses, a data distribution apparatus, a plurality of management apparatuses, a database device, and a data processing apparatus, wherein

5       said data providing apparatuses encrypt content data by using content key data, prepare content files storing the related encrypted content data, and store the related prepared content files and key files provided from corresponding management apparatuses in said database device,

10       said management apparatuses prepare key files storing said encrypted content key data and the encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data for the content data provided by corresponding data providing apparatuses, and provide the  
15       related prepared key files to corresponding data providing apparatuses,

      said data distribution apparatus distributes said content files and key files obtained from said database device to said data processing apparatus, and

20       said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed key files and determines the handling of the content data stored in said distributed content files based on the related decrypted usage  
25       control policy data.

66. A data providing system comprising a plurality of data providing apparatuses, a data distribution apparatus, a plurality of management apparatuses, a database device, and a data processing apparatus, wherein

5           said data providing apparatuses encrypt content data by using content key data, prepare content files storing the related encrypted content data, and store the related prepared content files in said database device,

                  said management apparatuses prepare key files  
10   storing said encrypted content key data and the encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data for the content data provided by corresponding data providing apparatuses, and provide the related prepared key files to said data distribution  
15   apparatus,

                  said data distribution apparatus distributes said content files obtained from said database device and the key files provided from said management apparatus to said data processing apparatus, and

20           said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed key files and determines the handling of the content data stored in said distributed content files based on the related decrypted usage  
25   control policy data.

67. A data providing system comprising a plurality of data providing apparatuses, a data distribution apparatus, a plurality of management apparatuses, a database device, and a data processing apparatus, wherein

5           said data providing apparatuses encrypt content data by using content key data, prepare content files storing the related encrypted content data, and store the related prepared content files in said database device,

          said management apparatuses prepare key files  
10       storing said encrypted content key data and the encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data for the content data provided by corresponding data providing apparatuses, and provide the related prepared key files to said data processing

15       apparatus,

          said data distribution apparatus distributes said content files obtained from said database device to said data processing apparatus, and

          said data processing apparatus decrypts said  
20       content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed key files and determines the handling of the content data stored in said distributed content files based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

25       68. A data providing system comprising a plurality

of data providing apparatuses, a data distribution apparatus, a plurality of management apparatuses, a database device, and a data processing apparatus, wherein

5       said data providing apparatuses provide master sources of content data to corresponding management apparatuses and store content files and key files received from the related management apparatuses in said database,

10       said management apparatuses encrypt said master sources received from corresponding data providing apparatuses by using content key data, prepare the content files storing the related encrypted content data, prepare key files storing said encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the  
15       handling of said content data for the content data provided by corresponding data providing apparatuses, and send said prepared content files and said prepared key files to corresponding data providing apparatuses,

20       said data distribution apparatus distributes said content files and key files obtained from said database device to said data processing apparatus, and

      said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed key files and determines the  
25       handling of the content data stored in said distributed

content files based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

69. A data providing system comprising a plurality of data providing apparatuses, a data distribution apparatus, a plurality of management apparatuses, a database device, and a data processing apparatus, wherein

5       said data providing apparatuses provide master sources of content data to corresponding management apparatuses, and store content files received from the

10       related management apparatuses in said database,

      said management apparatuses encrypt said master sources received from corresponding data providing apparatuses by using content key data, prepare the content files storing the related encrypted content data,

15       send the related prepared content files to said data providing apparatuses, prepare key files storing said encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data for the content data provided by corresponding data

20       providing apparatuses, and send said prepared key files to corresponding data distribution apparatus,

      said data distribution apparatus distributes said content files obtained from said database device and the key files provided from said management apparatuses

25       to said data processing apparatus, and



said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed key files and determines the handling of the content data stored in said distributed content files based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

70. A data providing system comprising a plurality of data providing apparatuses, a data distribution apparatus, a plurality of management apparatuses, a database device, and a data processing apparatus, wherein

said data providing apparatuses provide master sources of content data to corresponding management apparatuses and store content files received from the related management apparatuses in said database,

said management apparatuses encrypt said master sources received from corresponding data providing apparatuses by using content key data, prepare the content files storing the related encrypted content data, send the related prepared content files to said data providing apparatuses, prepare key files storing said encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data for the content data provided by corresponding data providing apparatuses, and send said prepared key files to said data processing apparatus,

said data distribution apparatus distributes said content files obtained from said database device and the key files provided from said management apparatuses to said data processing apparatus, and

5           said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said provided key files and determines the handling of the content data stored in said distributed content files based on the related decrypted usage  
10 control policy data.

71. A data providing method for distributing content data from a data providing apparatus to a data processing apparatus and managing said data providing apparatus and said data processing apparatus by a  
15 management apparatus, wherein

said management apparatus prepares a key file storing encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data,

20           said data providing apparatus provides said content data encrypted by using said content key data, and

said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data  
25 stored in said key file and determines the handling of

said content data based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

72. A data providing method for distributing content data from a data providing apparatus to a data processing apparatus and managing said data providing apparatus and said data processing apparatus by a management apparatus, comprising the steps of,

in said management apparatus, preparing a key file storing encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data,

distributing said prepared key file from said management apparatus to said data providing apparatus,

distributing a module storing a content file storing the content data encrypted by using said content key data and said key file distributed from said management apparatus from said data providing apparatus to said data processing apparatus, and

in said data processing apparatus, decrypting said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed module and determining the handling of said content data based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

73. A data providing method for distributing content data from a data providing apparatus to a data

in said management apparatus, preparing a key

in said data providing apparatus, distributing  
a module storing a content file containing the content  
data encrypted by using said content key data and the key  
10 file received from said management apparatus to said data  
processing apparatus, and

74. A data providing method for distributing content data from a data providing apparatus to a data processing apparatus and managing said data providing apparatus and said data processing apparatus by a management apparatus, comprising the steps of,

in said management apparatus, preparing a key  
file storing encrypted content key data and encrypted  
25 usage control policy data indicating the handling of said

content data,

distributing the related key file from said  
management apparatus to said data providing apparatus,

individually distributing a content file

5 storing the content data encrypted by using said content  
key data and said key file received from said management  
apparatus from said data providing apparatus to said data  
processing apparatus, and

in said data processing apparatus, decrypting  
10 said content key data and said usage control policy data  
stored in said distributed key file and determining the  
handling of the content data stored in said distributed  
content file based on the related decrypted usage control  
policy data.

15 75. A data providing method for distributing  
content data from a data providing apparatus to a data  
processing apparatus and managing said data providing  
apparatus and said data processing apparatus by a  
management apparatus, comprising the steps of,

20 in said management apparatus, preparing a key  
file storing encrypted content key data and encrypted  
usage control policy data indicating the handling of said  
content data,

distributing the related key file from said  
25 management apparatus to said data processing apparatus,

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distributing a content file storing the content data encrypted by using said content key data from said data providing apparatus to said data processing apparatus, and

5           in said data processing apparatus, decrypting said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed key file and determining the handling of the content data stored in said distributed content file based on the related decrypted usage control  
10   policy data.

76. A data providing method for distributing content data from a data providing apparatus to a data processing apparatus and managing said data providing apparatus and said data processing apparatus by a  
15   management apparatus, comprising the steps of,

          in said management apparatus, preparing a key file storing encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data,

20           in said data providing apparatus, distributing a module storing the content data encrypted by using said content key data and said key file received from said management apparatus to said data processing apparatus, and

25           in said data processing apparatus, decrypting

said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed module and determining the handling of said content data based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

5           77. A data providing method for distributing content data from a data providing apparatus to a data processing apparatus and managing said data providing apparatus and said data processing apparatus by a management apparatus, comprising the steps of,

10               in said management apparatus, preparing a key file storing encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data,

              in said data providing apparatus, individually  
15 distributing the content data encrypted by using said content key data and said key file received from said management apparatus to said data processing apparatus, and

              in said data processing apparatus, decrypting  
20 said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed key file and determining the handling of said distributed content data based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

              78. A data providing method for distributing  
25 content data from a data providing apparatus to a data

processing apparatus and managing said data providing  
apparatus and said data processing apparatus by a  
management apparatus, comprising the steps of,

in said management apparatus, preparing a key  
5 file storing encrypted content key data and encrypted  
usage control policy data indicating the handling of said  
content data,

distributing the related prepared key file to  
said data processing apparatus,

10 in said data providing apparatus, distributing  
the content data encrypted by using said content key data  
to said data processing apparatus, and

in said data processing apparatus, decrypting  
said content key data and said usage control policy data  
15 stored in said distributed key file and determining the  
handling of said distributed content data based on the  
related decrypted usage control policy data.

79. A data providing method for distributing  
content data from a data providing apparatus to a data  
20 processing apparatus and managing said data providing  
apparatus and said data processing apparatus by a  
management apparatus, comprising the steps of,

in said management apparatus, preparing  
encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control  
25 policy data indicating the handling of said content data,



in said data providing apparatus, individually  
distributing the content data encrypted by using said  
content key data and said encrypted content key data and  
said encrypted usage control policy data received from  
5 said management apparatus to said data processing  
apparatus, and

in said data processing apparatus, decrypting  
said distributed content key data and said usage control  
policy data and determining the handling of the content  
10 data stored in said distributed content file based on the  
related decrypted usage control policy data.

80. A data providing method for distributing  
content data from a data providing apparatus to a data  
processing apparatus and managing said data providing  
15 apparatus and said data processing apparatus by a  
management apparatus, comprising the steps of,

in said management apparatus, preparing  
encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control  
policy data indicating the handling of said content data  
20 and distributing the same to said data processing  
apparatus,

in said data providing apparatus, distributing  
the content data encrypted by using said content key data  
to said data processing apparatus, and

25 in said data processing apparatus, decrypting

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said distributed content key data and said usage control policy data and determining the handling of said distributed content data based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

5           81. A data providing method using a data providing apparatus, a data distribution apparatus, a data processing apparatus, and a management apparatus, comprising the steps of,

10                 in said management apparatus, preparing a key file storing encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data,

15                 providing said content data encrypted by using said content key data from said data providing apparatus to said data distribution apparatus,

                  in said data distribution apparatus, distributing said provided content data to said data processing apparatus, and

20                 in said data processing apparatus, decrypting said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said key file and determining the handling of said distributed content data based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

25           82. A data providing method for providing content data from a data providing apparatus to a data

distribution apparatus, distributing the content data  
from said data distribution apparatus to a data  
processing apparatus, and managing said data providing  
apparatus, said data distribution apparatus, and said  
5 data processing apparatus by a management apparatus,  
comprising the steps of,

in said management apparatus, preparing a key  
file storing encrypted content key data and encrypted  
usage control policy data indicating the handling of said  
10 content data,

distributing the related prepared key file from  
said management apparatus to said data providing  
apparatus,

providing a first module storing a content file  
15 storing the content data encrypted by using said content  
key data and said key file received from said management  
apparatus from said data providing apparatus to said data  
distribution apparatus, and

distributing a second module storing said  
20 provided content file and said key file from said data  
distribution apparatus to said data processing apparatus,  
and

in said data processing apparatus, decrypting  
said content key data and said usage control policy data  
25 stored in said distributed second module and determining

the handling of said content data stored in said distributed second module based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

83. A data providing method for providing content  
5 data from a data providing apparatus to a data  
distribution apparatus, distributing the content data  
from said data distribution apparatus to a data  
processing apparatus, and managing said data providing  
apparatus, said data distribution apparatus, and said  
10 data processing apparatus by a management apparatus,  
comprising the steps of,

in said management apparatus, preparing a key  
file storing encrypted content key data and encrypted  
usage control policy data indicating the handling of said  
15 content data,

in said data providing apparatus, providing a  
first module storing a content file containing the  
content data encrypted by using said content key data and  
a key file received from said management apparatus to  
20 said data distribution apparatus,

in said data distribution apparatus,  
distributing a second module storing said provided  
content file to said data processing apparatus, and

in said data processing apparatus, decrypting  
25 said content key data and said usage control policy data

stored in said distributed second module and determining the handling of said content data stored in said distributed second module based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

- 5           84. A data providing method for providing content data from a data providing apparatus to a data distribution apparatus, distributing the content data from said data distribution apparatus to a data processing apparatus, and managing said data providing apparatus, said data distribution apparatus, and said data processing apparatus by a management apparatus, comprising the steps of,
- 10                       in said management apparatus, preparing a key file storing encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data,
- 15                       distributing said prepared key file from said management apparatus to said data providing apparatus, individually distributing a content file
- 20           storing the content data encrypted by using said content key data and said key file received from said management apparatus from said data providing apparatus to said data distribution apparatus,
- individually distributing said distributed
- 25           content file and said key file from said data

distribution apparatus to said data distribution apparatus, and

in said data processing apparatus, decrypting said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed key file and determining the  
5 handling of the content data stored in said distributed content file based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

85. A data providing method for distributing  
10 content data from a data providing apparatus to a data processing apparatus and managing said data providing apparatus and said data processing apparatus by a management apparatus, comprising the steps of,

in said management apparatus, preparing a key  
15 file storing encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data,

distributing the related prepared key file from said management apparatus to said data processing  
20 apparatus,

providing a content file storing the content data encrypted by using said content key data from said data providing apparatus to said data distribution apparatus, and

25 distributing said provided content file from

said data distribution apparatus to said data processing apparatus, and

in said data processing apparatus, decrypting said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed key file and determining the  
5 handling of the content data stored in said distributed content file based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

86. A data providing method for providing content  
10 data from a data providing apparatus to a data distribution apparatus, distributing the content data from said data distribution apparatus to a data processing apparatus, and managing said data providing apparatus, said data distribution apparatus, and said  
15 data processing apparatus by a management apparatus, comprising the steps of,

in said management apparatus, preparing a key file storing encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said  
20 content data,

in said data providing apparatus, providing a first module storing the content data encrypted by using said content key data and said key file received from said management apparatus to said data distribution  
25 apparatus,

in said data distribution apparatus,  
distributing a second module storing said provided  
content data and said key file to said data processing  
apparatus, and

5 in said data processing apparatus, decrypting  
said content key data and said usage control policy data  
stored in said distributed second module and determining  
the handling of said content data stored in said  
distributed second module based on the related decrypted  
10 usage control policy data.

87. A data providing method for providing content  
data from a data providing apparatus to a data  
distribution apparatus, distributing the content data  
from said data distribution apparatus to a data  
15 processing apparatus, and managing said data providing  
apparatus, said data distribution apparatus, and said  
data processing apparatus by a management apparatus,  
comprising the steps of,

in said management apparatus, preparing a key  
20 file storing encrypted content key data and encrypted  
usage control policy data indicating the handling of said  
content data,

in said data providing apparatus, individually  
distributing the content data encrypted by using said  
25 content key data and said key file received from said

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in said data distribution apparatus,  
25 distributing said provided content data to said data

processing apparatus, and

in said data processing apparatus, decrypting  
said content key data and said usage control policy data  
stored in said distributed key file and determining the  
5 handling of said distributed content data based on the  
related decrypted usage control policy data.

89. A data providing method for providing content  
data from a data providing apparatus to a data  
distribution apparatus, distributing the content data  
10 from said data distribution apparatus to a data  
processing apparatus, and managing said data providing  
apparatus, said data distribution apparatus, and said  
data processing apparatus by a management apparatus,  
comprising the steps of,

15 in said management apparatus, providing  
encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control  
policy data indicating the handling of said content data  
to said data providing apparatus,

in said data providing apparatus, individually  
20 distributing the content data encrypted by using said  
content key data and said encrypted content key data and  
said encrypted usage control policy data which are  
received from said management apparatus to said data  
distribution apparatus,

25 in said data distribution apparatus,

individually distributing said distributed content data,  
said encrypted content key data, and said encrypted usage  
control policy data to said data distribution apparatus,  
and

5                   in said data processing apparatus, decrypting  
said distributed content key data and said usage control  
policy data and determining the handling of said  
distributed content data based on the related decrypted  
usage control policy data.

10               90. A data providing method for providing content  
data from a data providing apparatus to a data  
distribution apparatus, distributing the content data  
from said data distribution apparatus to a data  
processing apparatus, and managing said data providing  
15               apparatus, said data distribution apparatus, and said  
data processing apparatus by a management apparatus,  
comprising the steps of,

                  in said management apparatus, distributing  
encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control  
20               policy data indicating the handling of said content data  
to said data processing apparatus,

                  in said data providing apparatus, distributing  
the content data encrypted by using said content key data  
to said data distribution apparatus,

25               in said data distribution apparatus,

distributing said provided content data to said data processing apparatus, and

in said data processing apparatus, decrypting said distributed content key data and said usage control policy data and determining the handling of said distributed content data based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

91. A data providing method using a data providing apparatus, a data distribution apparatus, a management apparatus, and a data processing apparatus, wherein

said data providing apparatus provides master source data of content to said management apparatus,

said management apparatus manages said data providing apparatus, said data distribution apparatus, and said data processing apparatus, encrypts said provided master source data by using content key data to prepare content data, prepares a content file storing the related content data, prepares a key file storing said encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data, and provides said content file and said key file to said data distribution apparatus,

said data distribution apparatus distributes said provided content file and said key file to said data processing apparatus, and

said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed key file and determines the handling of the content data stored in said distributed content file based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

92. A data providing method using a data providing apparatus, a data distribution apparatus, a management apparatus, and a data processing apparatus, wherein

10       said data providing apparatus provides master source data of content to said management apparatus,

          said management apparatus manages said data providing apparatus, said data distribution apparatus, and said data processing apparatus, encrypts said

15       provided master source data by using content key data to prepare content data, prepares a content file storing the related content data, prepares a key file storing said encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data,

20       and provides said content file to said data distribution apparatus and provides said key file to said data processing apparatus,

          said data distribution apparatus distributes said provided content file to said data processing

25       apparatus, and

said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said provided key file and determines the handling of the content data stored in said distributed content file based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

93. A data providing method using a data providing apparatus, a data distribution apparatus, a management apparatus, and a data processing apparatus, wherein said data providing apparatus provides a content file storing encrypted content data using content key data to said management apparatus,

said management apparatus manages said data providing apparatus, said data distribution apparatus, and said data processing apparatus, prepares a key file storing said encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data, provides said content file provided from said data providing apparatus and said prepared key file to said data distribution apparatus,

said data distribution apparatus distributes said provided content file and said key file to said data processing apparatus, and

said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data

stored in said distributed key file and determines the handling of the content data stored in said distributed content file based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

- 5           94. A data providing method using a data providing apparatus, a data distribution apparatus, a management apparatus, and a data processing apparatus, wherein
- said data providing apparatus provides a content file storing encrypted content data using content
- 10   key data to said management apparatus,
- said management apparatus manages said data providing apparatus, said data distribution apparatus, and said data processing apparatus, prepares a key file storing said encrypted content key data and encrypted
- 15   usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data, provides said content file provided from said data providing apparatus to said data distribution apparatus, and provides said prepared key file to said data processing apparatus,
- 20           said data distribution apparatus distributes said provided content file to said data processing apparatus, and
- said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data
- 25   stored in said provided key file and determines the

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handling of the content data stored in said distributed content file based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

95. A data providing method using a data providing apparatus, a data distribution apparatus, a management apparatus, a database device, and a data processing apparatus, wherein

said data providing apparatus encrypts content data by using content key data, prepares a content file storing the related encrypted content data, and stores the related prepared content file and a key file provided from said management apparatus in said database device,

said management apparatus prepares a key file storing said encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data and provides the related prepared key file to said data providing apparatus,

said data distribution apparatus distributes said content file and key file obtained from said database device to said data processing apparatus, and

said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed key file and determines the handling of the content data stored in said distributed content file based on the related decrypted usage control



policy data.

96. A data providing method using a data providing apparatus, a data distribution apparatus, a management apparatus, a database device, and a data processing apparatus, wherein

said data providing apparatus encrypts content data by using content key data, prepares a content file storing the related encrypted content data, and stores the related prepared content file in said database device,

said management apparatus prepares a key file storing said encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data and provides the related prepared key file to said data distribution apparatus,

said data distribution apparatus distributes said content file obtained from said database device and the key file provided from said data distribution apparatus to said data processing apparatus, and

said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed key file and determines the handling of the content data stored in said distributed content file based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

97. A data providing method using a data providing apparatus, a data distribution apparatus, a management apparatus, a database device, and a data processing apparatus, wherein

5           said data providing apparatus encrypts content data by using content key data, prepares a content file storing the related encrypted content data, and stores the related prepared content file in said database device,

10           said management apparatus prepares a key file storing said encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data and provides the related prepared key file to said data processing apparatus,

15           said data distribution apparatus distributes said content file obtained from said database device and the key file provided from said data distribution apparatus to said data processing apparatus, and

            said data processing apparatus decrypts said  
20 content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said provided key file and determines the handling of the content data stored in said distributed content file based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

25           98. A data providing method using a plurality of

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data providing apparatuses, a data distribution apparatus, a plurality of management apparatuses, a database device, and a data processing apparatus, wherein

5       said data providing apparatuses encrypt content data by using content key data, prepare content files storing the related encrypted content data, and store the related prepared content files and key files provided from corresponding management apparatuses in said database device,

10               said management apparatuses prepare the key files storing said encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data for the content data provided by corresponding data providing apparatuses and  
15       provide the related prepared key files to corresponding data providing apparatuses,

              said data distribution apparatus distributes said content files and key files obtained from said database device to said data processing apparatus, and

20               said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed key files and determines the handling of the content data stored in said distributed content files based on the related decrypted usage  
25       control policy data.

99. A data providing method using a plurality of data providing apparatuses, a data distribution apparatus, a plurality of management apparatuses, a database device, and a data processing apparatus, wherein

- 5           said data providing apparatuses encrypt content data by using content key data, prepare content files storing the related encrypted content data, and store the related prepared content files in said database device,
- said management apparatuses prepare the key
- 10   files storing said encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data for the content data provided by corresponding data providing apparatuses and provide the related prepared key files to said data
- 15   distribution apparatus,
- said data distribution apparatus distributes said content files obtained from said database device and the key files provided from said management apparatuses to said data processing apparatus, and
- 20           said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed key files and determines the handling of the content data stored in said distributed content files based on the related decrypted usage
- 25   control policy data.

100. A data providing method using a plurality of data providing apparatuses, a data distribution apparatus, a plurality of management apparatuses, a database device, and a data processing apparatus, wherein

5           said data providing apparatuses encrypt content data by using content key data, prepare content files storing the related encrypted content data, and store the related prepared content files in said database device,

                  said management apparatuses prepare the key  
10   files storing said encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data for the content data provided by corresponding data providing apparatuses and provide the related prepared key files to said data  
15   processing apparatus,

                  said data distribution apparatus distributes said content files obtained from said database device to said data processing apparatus, and

                  said data processing apparatus decrypts said  
20   content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said provided key files and determines the handling of the content data stored in said distributed content files based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

25           101. A data providing method using a plurality of

data providing apparatuses, a data distribution apparatus, a plurality of management apparatuses, a database device, and a data processing apparatus, wherein

5       said data providing apparatuses provide master sources of content data to corresponding management apparatuses and store content files and key files received from the related management apparatuses in said database,

10       said management apparatuses encrypt said master sources received from corresponding data providing apparatuses by using content key data, prepare content files storing the related encrypted content data, prepare key files storing said encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the  
15       handling of said content data for the content data provided by corresponding data providing apparatuses, and send said prepared content files and said prepared key files to corresponding data providing apparatuses,

20       said data distribution apparatus distributes said content files and key files obtained from said database device to said data processing apparatus, and

      said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed key files and determines the  
25       handling of the content data stored in said distributed

content files based on the related decrypted usage  
control policy data.

102. A data providing method using a plurality of  
data providing apparatuses, a data distribution  
5 apparatus, a plurality of management apparatuses, a  
database device, and a data processing apparatus, wherein  
said data providing apparatuses provide master  
sources of content data to corresponding management  
apparatuses and store content files received from the  
10 related management apparatuses in said database,  
said management apparatuses encrypt said master  
sources received from corresponding data providing  
apparatuses by using content key data, prepare content  
files storing the related encrypted content data, send  
15 the related prepared content files to said data providing  
apparatuses, prepare key files storing said encrypted  
content key data and encrypted usage control policy data  
indicating the handling of said content data for the  
content data provided by corresponding data providing  
20 apparatuses, and send the related prepared key files to  
corresponding data distribution apparatus,  
said data distribution apparatus distributes  
said content files obtained from said database device and  
key files provided from said management apparatuses to  
25 said data processing apparatus, and

said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed key files and determines the handling of the content data stored in said distributed content files based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

103. A data providing method using a plurality of data providing apparatuses, a data distribution apparatus, a plurality of management apparatuses, a database device, and a data processing apparatus, wherein

said data providing apparatuses provide master sources of content data to corresponding management apparatuses and store content files received from the related management apparatuses in said database,

said management apparatuses encrypt said master sources received from corresponding data providing apparatuses by using content key data, prepare content files storing the related encrypted content data, send the related prepared content files to said data providing apparatuses, prepare key files storing said encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data for the content data provided by corresponding data providing apparatuses, and provide the related prepared key files to said data processing apparatus,



said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said provided key files and determines the handling of the content data stored in said distributed content files based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

said data providing apparatus distributes a module storing the content data encrypted by using content key data, said encrypted content key data, and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data to said data processing apparatus by using a predetermined communication protocol in a format not depending upon the related communication protocol or by recording the same on a storage medium, and

said data processing apparatus decrypts said  
content key data and said usage control policy data  
stored in said distributed module and determines the  
25 handling of said content data based on the related

decrypted usage control policy data.

105. A data providing system as set forth in claim  
104, wherein said data providing apparatus distributes  
said module further storing signature data for verifying  
5 a legitimacy of a producer and a transmitter of at least  
one data among said content data, said content key data,  
and said usage control policy data to said data  
processing apparatus.

106. A data providing system as set forth in claim  
10 104, wherein  
said data providing apparatus distributes said  
module further storing at least one data between data for  
verifying if the related data is not tampered with and  
signature data for verifying if the related data was  
15 normally certified by a predetermined manager for at  
least one data among said content data, said content key  
data, and said usage control policy data to said data  
processing apparatus.

107. A data providing system as set forth in claim  
20 104, wherein

said data processing apparatus determines a  
purchase form of said content data based on said usage  
control policy data, and

where said content data is transferred to  
25 another data processing apparatus, the signature data

indicating the legitimacy of the purchaser of the related content data and the signature data indicating the legitimacy of the transmitter of the related content data are made different.

5           108. A data providing system as set forth in claim 104, wherein said data providing apparatus produces signature data using secret key data of said data providing apparatus and a hash function.

10           109. A data providing system for distributing content data from a data providing apparatus to a data processing apparatus and managing said data providing apparatus and said data processing apparatus by a management apparatus, wherein

15               said management apparatus prepares a key file storing encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data,

20               said data providing apparatus distributes a module storing a content file storing the content data encrypted by using said content key data and said key file received from said management apparatus to said data processing apparatus by using a predetermined communication protocol in a format not depending upon the related communication protocol or by recording the same  
25               on a storage medium, and

said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed module and determines the handling of said content data based on the related  
5 decrypted usage control policy data.

110. A data providing system as set forth in claim 109, wherein said management apparatus produces signature data for verifying the legitimacy of the producer of said key file and prepares said key file further storing the  
10 related signature data.

111. A data providing system as set forth in claim 109, wherein

said data providing apparatus produces said content key data and said usage control policy data and  
15 transmits the same to said management apparatus, and

said management apparatus prepares said key file based on said received content key data and usage control policy data and registers the related prepared key file.

20 112. A data providing system as set forth in claim 110, wherein said data providing apparatus produces signature data for verifying at least one of the legitimacy of a producer and transmitter of said content file and a distributor of said key file and distributes  
25 said module further storing said signature data to said

data processing apparatus.

113. A data providing system as set forth in claim 112, wherein said data processing apparatus verifies the signature data stored in said module to confirm at least one of the legitimacy of a producer and distributor of said content file and a producer and distributor of said key file.

114. A data providing system as set forth in claim 109, wherein said data providing apparatus further stores in said content file expansion use software for expanding the content data when the content data is compressed.

115. A data providing system as set forth in claim 109, wherein said data providing apparatus further stores in said content file an electronic watermark information module including information used for detecting said electronic watermark information when electronic watermark information is buried in said content file.

116. A data providing system as set forth in claim 109, wherein said data providing apparatus stores metadata relating to the explanation of the content of the content data in said content file or distributes it separately from the content file to said data processing apparatus.

117. A data providing system as set forth in claim 109, wherein

said management apparatus produces said key file storing said content file data and said usage control policy data encrypted using said distribution use key data.

118. A data providing system as set forth in claim 117, wherein said management apparatus and said data processing apparatus comprise a plurality of distribution use key data of defined periods of validity and use distribution use key data of corresponding periods.

10            119. A data providing system as set forth in claim  
109, wherein said management apparatus produces said key  
file further storing data describing the grammar of said  
usage policy control data.

120. A data providing system as set forth in claim  
15 109, wherein

said management apparatus distributes data showing information for reading the content file and the key file, that is, a file reader, to said data processing apparatus and

20           said data processing apparatus reads said  
content file and said key file based on the file reader.

121. A data providing system as set forth in claim  
109, wherein

said data providing apparatus distributes data  
25 showing information for reading the content file and the

said data processing apparatus reads said  
content file and said key file based on the file reader.

said data providing apparatus produces said  
signature data using its own secret key data and

123. A data providing system as set forth in claim  
122, wherein

said data processing apparatus verifies said signature data using the public key data stored in said distributed public key certificate data.

said management apparatus distributes public key certificate data certifying the legitimacy of said public key data to said data processing apparatus and

said data processing apparatus verifies said signature data using the public key data stored in said distributed public key certificate data.

125. A data providing system as set forth in claim  
5 122, wherein said data providing apparatus performs mutual certification with said data processing apparatus, encrypts said module using session key data obtained by said mutual certification, and sends the encrypted module to said data processing apparatus.

10 126. A data providing system as set forth in claim 122, wherein said data providing apparatus produces a storage medium recording said module.

127. A data providing system as set forth in claim  
15 122, wherein said data processing apparatus determines at least one of a purchase form and a usage form of said content data based on said usage control policy data.

128. A data providing system as set forth in claim  
20 122, wherein said data processing apparatus outputs said encrypted content key data and said encrypted content data to a decryption device.

129. A data providing system as set forth in claim  
129, wherein

said data processing apparatus determines at  
least one of the purchase form and the usage form of the  
25 distributed content data based on the usage control

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policy data and sends log data showing the log of at least one of the purchase form and usage form decided to said management apparatus, and

5       said management apparatus performs profit distribution processing for distributing the profit obtained along with the purchase and usage of the content data in the data processing apparatus to the interested parties of the data providing apparatus based on the received log data.

10       130. A data providing system as set forth in claim 129, wherein said management apparatus performs said profit distribution processing in units of content data.

131. A data providing system as set forth in claim 129, wherein

15       said data providing apparatus distributes a module storing a plurality of said content files and a plurality of key files corresponding to the plurality of content files to said data processing apparatus and

20       said content files include directory structure data showing the relationship among the plurality of content files and the relationship with said key files.

132. A data providing system as set forth in claim 109, wherein said data providing apparatus further comprises a memory circuit for storing said module.

25       133. A data providing system as set forth in claim

132, wherein said data providing apparatus manages said module based on a content identifier uniquely allocated to said content data.

134. A data providing system as set forth in claim 5 133, wherein said management apparatus prepares said key file further storing said content identifier.

135. A data providing system as set forth in claim 10 133, wherein said content identifier is determined uniquely in said content data stored by said data providing apparatus in said memory circuit.

136. A data providing system as set forth in claim 133, wherein said content identifier is determined uniquely globally.

137. A data providing system as set forth in claim 15 133, wherein said data providing apparatus produces said content identifier..

138. A data providing system as set forth in claim 133, wherein said data providing apparatus further comprises a memory circuit for storing said module.

20 139. A data providing system as set forth in claim 133, wherein said data processing circuit comprises a module giving resistance to outside monitoring and tampering of the processing content, predetermined data stored in an internal memory, and data being processed.

25 140. A data providing apparatus which is managed by

142. A data providing system for distributing  
25 content data from a data providing apparatus to a data

processing apparatus and managing said data providing  
apparatus and said data processing apparatus by a  
management apparatus, wherein

5       said management apparatus prepares a key file  
storing encrypted content key data and encrypted usage  
control policy data indicating the handling of said  
content data,

10       said data providing apparatus distributes a  
module storing a content file containing the content data  
encrypted by using said content key data and the key file  
received from said management apparatus to said data  
processing apparatus by using a predetermined  
communication protocol in a format not depending upon the  
related communication protocol or recording the same on a  
15       storage medium, and

20       said data processing apparatus decrypts said  
content key data and said usage control policy data  
stored in said distributed module and determines the  
handling of said content data based on the related  
decrypted usage control policy data.

143. A data providing system for distributing  
content data from a data providing apparatus to a data  
processing apparatus and managing said data providing  
apparatus and said data processing apparatus by a  
25       management apparatus, wherein

said management apparatus prepares a key file storing encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data,

5           said data providing apparatus individually distributes a content file storing the content data encrypted by using said content key data and said key file received from said management apparatus to said data processing apparatus by using a predetermined  
10 communication protocol but in a format not depending upon the related communication protocol or by recording the same on a storage medium, and

          said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data  
15 stored in said distributed key file and determines the handling of the content data stored in said distributed content file based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

144. A data providing system as set forth in claim  
20 143, wherein

          said data providing apparatus individually distributes a plurality of said content files and a plurality of key files corresponding to said plurality of content files to said data processing apparatus, and  
25           said content files and said key files include

hyper link information showing the mutual correspondence.

145. A data providing system for distributing content data from a data providing apparatus to a data processing apparatus and managing said data providing apparatus and said data processing apparatus by a management apparatus, wherein

5 said management apparatus prepares a key file storing encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data and distributes the related prepared key file to said data processing apparatus,

10 said data providing apparatus distributes a content file storing the content data encrypted by using said content key data to said data processing apparatus by using a predetermined communication protocol but in a format not depending upon the related communication protocol or recording the same on a storage medium, and

15 said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed key file and determines the handling of the content data stored in said distributed content file based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

20 146. A data providing system as set forth in claim 145, wherein

said data providing apparatus distributes a plurality of said content files to said data processing apparatus,

said management apparatus distributes the  
5 plurality of key files corresponding to the plurality of content files to said data processing apparatus, and

said content files and said key files include hyper link information showing the mutual correspondence.

147. A data providing system for distributing  
10 content data from a data providing apparatus to a data processing apparatus and managing said data providing apparatus and said data processing apparatus by a management apparatus, wherein

said management apparatus prepares a key file  
15 storing encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data,

said data providing apparatus distributes a module storing the content data encrypted by using said  
20 content key data and said key file received from said management apparatus to said data processing apparatus by using a predetermined communication protocol but in a format not depending upon the related communication protocol or recording the same on a storage medium, and

25 said data processing apparatus decrypts said

content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed module and determines the handling of said content data based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

5           148. A data providing system for distributing content data from a data providing apparatus to a data processing apparatus and managing said data providing apparatus and said data processing apparatus by a management apparatus, wherein

10                 said management apparatus prepares a key file storing encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data,

                  said data providing apparatus individually  
15 distributes the content data encrypted by using said content key data and said key file received from said management apparatus to said data processing apparatus by using a predetermined communication protocol but in a format not depending upon the related communication  
20 protocol or recording the same on a storage medium, and

                  said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed key file and determines the handling of said distributed content data based on the  
25 related decrypted usage control policy data.



149. A data providing system for distributing  
content data from a data providing apparatus to a data  
processing apparatus and managing said data providing  
apparatus and said data processing apparatus by a  
5 management apparatus, wherein

said management apparatus prepares a key file  
storing encrypted content key data and encrypted usage  
control policy data indicating the handling of said  
content data and distributes the related prepared key  
10 file to said data processing apparatus,

said data providing apparatus distributes the  
content data encrypted by using said content key data to  
said data processing apparatus by using a predetermined  
communication protocol but in a format not depending upon  
15 the related communication protocol or recording the same  
on a storage medium, and

said data processing apparatus decrypts said  
content key data and said usage control policy data  
stored in said distributed key file and determines the  
20 handling of said distributed content data based on the  
related decrypted usage control policy data.

150. A data providing system for distributing  
content data from a data providing apparatus to a data  
processing apparatus and managing said data providing  
25 apparatus and said data processing apparatus by a

management apparatus, wherein

said management apparatus prepares encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data,

5           said data providing apparatus individually distributes the content data encrypted by using said content key data and said encrypted content key data and said encrypted usage control policy data received from said management apparatus to said data processing  
10 apparatus by using a predetermined communication protocol but in a format not depending upon the related communication protocol or recording the same on a storage medium, and

          said data processing apparatus decrypts said  
15 distributed content key data and said usage control policy data and determines the handling of the content data stored in said distributed content file based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

151. A data providing system for distributing  
20 content data from a data providing apparatus to a data processing apparatus and managing said data providing apparatus and said data processing apparatus by a management apparatus, wherein

          said management apparatus prepares encrypted  
25 content key data and encrypted usage control policy data

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indicating the handling of said content data and  
distributes the same to said data processing apparatus,

said data providing apparatus distributes the  
content data encrypted by using said content key data to  
5 said data processing apparatus by using a predetermined  
communication protocol but in a format not depending upon  
the related communication protocol or recording the same  
on a storage medium, and

said data processing apparatus decrypts said  
10 distributed content key data and said usage control  
policy data and determines the handling of said  
distributed content data based on the related decrypted  
usage control policy data.

152. A data providing system comprising a data  
15 providing apparatus, a data distribution apparatus, and a  
data processing apparatus, wherein

said data providing apparatus provides a first  
module storing content data encrypted by using content  
key data, said encrypted content key data, and encrypted  
20 usage control policy data indicating the handling of said  
content data to said data distribution apparatus,

said data distribution apparatus distributes a  
second module storing said encrypted content data,  
content key data, and the usage control policy data  
25 stored in said provided first module to said data

processing apparatus by using a predetermined communication protocol but in a format not depending upon the related communication protocol or by recording the same on a storage medium, and

5           said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed second module and determines the handling of said content data based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

10           153. A data providing system as set forth in claim 152, wherein said data distribution apparatus prepares a second module including said provided first module and distributes the prepared second module to said data processing apparatus.

15           154. A data providing system as set forth in claim 152, wherein said data distribution apparatus distributes said second module further storing price data showing the price of the content data to said data processing apparatus.

20           155. A data providing system as set forth in claim 154, wherein said data distribution apparatus determines the price data based on a wholesale price determined for said content data by said data providing apparatus.

25           156. A data providing system as set forth in claim 152, wherein said data providing apparatus provides a



and usage control policy data and signature data for verifying if the data has been certified as legitimate by a predetermined manager to said data processing apparatus.

5           160. A data providing system as set forth in claim 152, wherein

              said said data processing apparatus determines at least one of the purchase form and the usage form of the distributed content data based on the usage control  
10   policy data and sends log data showing the log of at least one of the purchase form and usage form decided to said management apparatus and

              said management apparatus performs profit distribution processing for distributing the profit  
15   obtained along with the purchase and usage of the content data in the data processing apparatus to the interested parties of the data providing apparatus and data distribution apparatus based on the received log data.

              161. A data providing system as set forth in claim  
20   152, wherein

              said data processing apparatus sends distribution use log data relating to the distribution of the data distribution apparatus to said data distribution apparatus and

25           said data distribution apparatus performs

charge processing relating to that distribution based on the distribution use log data.

162. A data providing system for providing content data from a data providing apparatus to a data distribution apparatus, distributing the content data from said data distribution apparatus to a data processing apparatus, and managing said data providing apparatus, said data distribution apparatus, and said data processing apparatus by a management apparatus, wherein

said management apparatus prepares a key file storing encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data,

said data providing apparatus provides a first module storing a content file storing the content data encrypted by using said content key data and said key file received from said management apparatus to said data distribution apparatus,

said data distribution apparatus distributes a second module storing said provided content file and said key file to said data processing apparatus by using a predetermined communication protocol but in a format not depending upon the related communication protocol or recording the same on a storage medium, and

said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed second module and determines the handling of said content data stored in said distributed second module based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

163. A data providing system as set forth in claim 162, wherein said management apparatus produces signature data for verifying the legitimacy of the producer of said key file and prepares said key file further storing the related signature data.

164. A data providing system as set forth in claim 162, wherein

said data providing apparatus produces said content key data and said usage control policy data and transmits the same to said management apparatus, and said management apparatus prepares said key file based on said received content key data and usage control policy data and registers the received content key data and usage control policy data:

165. A data providing system as set forth in claim 162, wherein said data providing apparatus produces signature data for verifying at least one of the legitimacy of a producer and provider of said content file and a provider of said key file and distributes said

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module further storing said signature data to said data processing apparatus.

166. A data providing system as set forth in claim 162, wherein said data distribution apparatus produces signature data for verifying at least one of the legitimacy of a producer and distributor of said content file and a distributor of said key file and distributes said second module further storing said signature data to said data processing apparatus.

167. A data providing system as set forth in claim 166, wherein said data processing apparatus verifies the signature data stored in said second module to confirm at least one of the legitimacy of a producer and distributor of said content file and a producer and distributor of said key file.

168. A data providing system as set forth in claim 162, wherein said data providing apparatus further stores in said content file expansion use software for expanding the content data when the content data is compressed.

169. A data providing system as set forth in claim 162, wherein said data providing apparatus stores metadata relating to the explanation of the content of the content data in said content file or distributes it separately from the content file to said data processing apparatus.

170. A data providing system as set forth in claim  
162, wherein said data providing apparatus further stores  
in said content file an electronic watermark information  
module including information used for detecting said  
5 electronic watermark information when electronic  
watermark information is buried in said content file.

171. A data providing system as set forth in claim  
162, wherein said management apparatus  
produces said key file storing said content  
10 file data and said usage control policy data encrypted  
using said distribution use key data and  
distributes said distribution use key data to  
said data processing apparatus.

172. A data providing system as set forth in claim  
15 171, wherein said management apparatus and said data  
processing apparatus comprise a plurality of distribution  
use key data of defined periods of validity and use  
distribution use key data of corresponding periods.

173. A data providing system as set forth in claim  
20 162, wherein said management apparatus produces said key  
file further storing data describing the grammar of said  
usage policy control data.

174. A data providing system as set forth in claim  
162, wherein  
25 said management apparatus distributes data

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showing information for reading the content file and the key file, that is, a file reader, to said data processing apparatus and

said data processing apparatus reads said  
5 content file and said key file based on the file reader.

175. A data providing system as set forth in claim 162, wherein

said data providing apparatus distributes data showing information for reading the content file and the  
10 key file, that is, a file reader, to said data processing apparatus and

said data processing apparatus reads said content file and said key file based on the file reader.

176. A data providing system as set forth in claim  
15 165, wherein

said data providing apparatus produces said signature data using its own secret key data and

said data processing apparatus verifies the legitimacy of said signature data using public key data  
20 corresponding to said secret key data.

177. A data providing system as set forth in claim 176, wherein

said data providing apparatus distributes said module further storing public key certificate data  
25 certifying the legitimacy of said public key data to said

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data processing apparatus and

said data processing apparatus verifies said signature data using the public key data stored in said distributed public key certificate data.

5        178. A data providing system as set forth in claim 176, wherein

said management apparatus distributes public key certificate data certifying the legitimacy of said public key data to said data processing apparatus and

10        said data processing apparatus verifies said signature data using the public key data stored in said distributed public key certificate data.

179. A data providing system as set forth in claim 176, wherein

15        said data distribution apparatus produces said signature data using its own secret key data and

said data processing apparatus verifies the legitimacy of said signature data using public key data corresponding to said secret key data.

20        180. A data providing system as set forth in claim 179, wherein

said data distribution apparatus distributes said module further storing public key certificate data certifying the legitimacy of said public key data to said  
25        data processing apparatus and

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said data processing apparatus verifies the legitimacy of said signature data using public key data stored in said distributed public key certificate data.

181. A data providing system as set forth in claim  
5 179, wherein

said management apparatus distributes public key certificate data certifying the legitimacy of said public key data to said data processing apparatus and

said data processing apparatus verifies the  
10 legitimacy of said signature data using public key data stored in said distributed public key certificate data.

182. A data providing system as set forth in claim  
162, wherein said data distribution apparatus performs mutual certification with said data processing apparatus,  
15 encrypts said module using session key data obtained by said mutual certification, and sends the encrypted second module to said data processing apparatus.

183. A data providing system as set forth in claim  
182, wherein said data distribution apparatus produces a  
20 storage medium recording said module.

184. A data providing system as set forth in claim  
162, wherein said data processing apparatus determines at least one of a purchase form and a usage form of said content data based on said usage control policy data.

25 185. A data providing system as set forth in claim

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162, wherein said data processing apparatus outputs said encrypted content key data and said encrypted content data to a decryption device.

186. A data providing system as set forth in claim  
5 162, wherein

said data processing apparatus determines at least one of the purchase form and the usage form of the distributed content data based on the usage control policy data and sends log data showing the log of at  
10 least one of the purchase form and usage form decided to said management apparatus, and

said management apparatus performs profit distribution processing for distributing the profit obtained along with the purchase and usage of the content  
15 data in the data processing apparatus to the interested parties of the data providing apparatus and data distribution apparatus based on the received log data.

187. A data providing system as set forth in claim  
186, wherein said management apparatus performs said  
20 profit distribution processing in units of content data.

188. A data providing system as set forth in claim  
162, wherein said data distribution apparatus distributes said second module storing price data showing a price of said content data to said data processing apparatus.

25 189. A data providing system as set forth in claim

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186, wherein said management apparatus registers said price data received from said data distribution apparatus.

190. A data providing system as set forth in claim 5 162, wherein said data processing apparatus comprises a module giving resistance to outside monitoring and tampering of the processing content, predetermined data stored in an internal memory, and data being processed.

191. A data providing system as set forth in claim 10 162, wherein

when said first module and said second module store a plurality of content files and a plurality of key files corresponding to the plurality of content files,

said first module and said second module 15 further include data showing the correspondence of the plurality of content files and the corresponding key files.

192. A data providing system as set forth in claim 162, wherein

20 said data providing apparatus distributes a module storing a plurality of said content files and a plurality of key files corresponding to the plurality of content files to said data processing apparatus and

said content files include directory structure 25 data showing the relationship among the plurality of

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content files and the relationship with said key files.

193. A data providing system as set forth in claim 162, wherein said data providing apparatus further comprises a memory circuit for storing said module.

5        194. A data providing system as set forth in claim 193, wherein said data providing apparatus manages said module based on a content identifier uniquely allocated to said content data.

10       195. A data providing system as set forth in claim 194, wherein said management apparatus prepares said key file further storing said content identifier.

15       196. A data providing system as set forth in claim 194, wherein said content identifier is determined uniquely in said content data stored by said data providing apparatus in said memory circuit.

197. A data providing system as set forth in claim 194, wherein said content identifier is determined uniquely globally.

20       198. A data providing system as set forth in claim 194, wherein said data providing apparatus produces said content identifier.

199. A data providing system as set forth in claim 194, wherein said data providing apparatus further comprises a memory circuit for storing said module.

25       200. A data providing system for providing content

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data from a data providing apparatus to a data  
distribution apparatus, distributing the content data  
from said data distribution apparatus to a data  
processing apparatus, and managing said data providing  
5 apparatus, said data distribution apparatus, and said  
data processing apparatus by a management apparatus,  
wherein

said management apparatus prepares a key file  
storing encrypted content key data and encrypted usage  
10 control policy data indicating the handling of said  
content data,

said data providing apparatus provides a first  
module storing a content file containing the content data  
encrypted by using said content key data and a key file  
15 received from said management apparatus to said data  
distribution apparatus,

said data distribution apparatus distributes a  
second module storing said provided content file to said  
data processing apparatus by using a predetermined  
20 communication protocol but in a format not depending upon  
the related communication protocol or recording the same  
on a storage medium, and

said data processing apparatus decrypts said  
content key data and said usage control policy data  
25 stored in said distributed second module and determines

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the handling of said content data stored in said distributed second module based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

201. A data providing system for providing content  
5 data from a data providing apparatus to a first data distribution apparatus and a second data distribution apparatus, distributing the content data from said first data distribution apparatus and said second data distribution apparatus to a data processing apparatus,  
10 and managing said data providing apparatus, said first data distribution apparatus, said second data distribution apparatus, and said data processing apparatus by a management apparatus, wherein

said management apparatus prepares a key file  
15 storing encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data,

said data providing apparatus provides a first module storing a content file storing the content data  
20 encrypted by using said content key data and said key file received from said management apparatus to said first data distribution apparatus and said second data distribution apparatus,

said first data distribution apparatus  
25 distributes a second module storing said provided content

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file and said key file to said data processing apparatus,  
said second data distribution apparatus  
distributes a third module storing said provided content  
file and said key file to said data processing apparatus,  
5 and

said data processing apparatus decrypts said  
content key data and said usage control policy data  
stored in said distributed second module and said third  
module and determines the handling of said content data  
10 based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

202. A data providing system as set forth in claim  
201, wherein

said first data distribution apparatus  
distributes said second module storing first price data  
15 showing a price of said content data to said data  
processing apparatus and

said second data distribution apparatus  
distributes said third module storing second price data  
showing a price of content data to said data processing  
20 apparatus.

203. A data providing system for providing first  
content data from a first data providing apparatus to a  
data distribution apparatus, providing second content  
data from a second data providing apparatus to the data  
25 distribution apparatus, distributing the content data

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from said data distribution apparatus to a data  
processing apparatus, and managing said first data  
providing apparatus, said second data providing  
apparatus, said data distribution apparatus, and said  
5 data processing apparatus by a management apparatus,  
wherein

10 said management apparatus prepares a first key  
file storing an encrypted first content key data and an  
encrypted first usage control policy data indicating the  
handling of said first content data and a second key file  
storing an encrypted second content key data and an  
encrypted second usage control policy data indicating the  
handling of said second content data,

15 said first data providing apparatus provides a  
first module storing a first content file storing said  
first content data encrypted by using said first content  
key data and said first key file received from said  
management apparatus to said data distribution apparatus,

20 said second data providing apparatus provides a  
second module storing a second content file storing said  
second content data encrypted by using said second  
content key data and said second key file received from  
said management apparatus to said data distribution  
apparatus,

25 said data distribution apparatus distributes a

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third module storing said provided first content file,  
said first key file, said second content file, and said  
second key file to said data processing apparatus, and

5       said data processing apparatus decrypts said  
first content key data, said second content key data,  
said first usage control policy data, and said second  
usage control policy data stored in said distributed  
third module, determines the handling of said first  
content data based on the related decrypted first usage  
10   control policy data, and determines the handling of said  
second content data based on the related decrypted second  
usage control policy data.

204. A data providing system as set forth in claim  
203, wherein said data distribution apparatus distributes  
15   said third module further storing first price data  
showing a price of said first content data and second  
price data showing a price of said second content data to  
said data processing apparatus.

205. A data providing system for providing content  
20   data from a data providing apparatus to a data  
distribution apparatus, distributing the content data  
from said data distribution apparatus to a data  
processing apparatus, and managing said data providing  
apparatus, said data distribution apparatus, and said  
25   data processing apparatus by a management apparatus,

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wherein

said management apparatus prepares a key file storing encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data,

said data providing apparatus individually distributes a content file storing the content data encrypted by using said content key data and said key file received from said management apparatus to said data distribution apparatus,

said data distribution apparatus individually distributes said distributed content file and said key file to said data processing apparatus by using a predetermined communication protocol but in a format not depending upon the related communication protocol or by recording the same on a storage medium, and

said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed key file and determines the handling of said content data stored in said distributed content file based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

206. A data providing system as set forth in claim 205, wherein said content file and said key file include data for clearing indicating their mutual correspondence.

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207. A data providing system for providing content data from a data providing apparatus to a data processing apparatus and managing said data providing apparatus and said data processing apparatus by a management apparatus,

5 wherein

said management apparatus prepares a key file storing encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data and distributes the related prepared key  
10 file to said data processing apparatus,

said data providing apparatus distributes a content file storing the content data encrypted by using said content key data to said data distribution apparatus,

15 said data distribution apparatus distributes said provided content file to said data processing apparatus by using a predetermined communication protocol but in a format not depending upon the related communication protocol or by recording the same on a  
20 storage medium, and

said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed key file and determines the handling of said content data stored in said distributed  
25 content file based on the related decrypted usage control

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policy data.

208. A data providing system as set forth in claim 207, wherein said content file and said key file include data for clearing indicating their mutual correspondence.

5

209. A data providing system for providing content data from a data providing apparatus to a data distribution apparatus, distributing the content data from said data distribution apparatus to a data processing apparatus, and managing said data providing apparatus, said data distribution apparatus, and said data processing apparatus by a management apparatus, wherein

said management apparatus prepares a key file storing encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data,

said data providing apparatus provides a first module storing the content data encrypted by using said content key data and said key file received from said management apparatus to said data distribution apparatus,

said data distribution apparatus distributes a second module storing said provided content data and said key file to said data processing apparatus by using a predetermined communication protocol but in a format not

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depending upon the related communication protocol or by recording the same on a storage medium, and

5       said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed second module and determines the handling of said content data stored in said distributed second module based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

210. A data providing system for providing content  
10   data from a data providing apparatus to a data distribution apparatus, distributing the content data from said data distribution apparatus to a data processing apparatus, and managing said data providing apparatus, said data distribution apparatus, and said  
15   data processing apparatus by a management apparatus, wherein

      said management apparatus prepares a key file storing encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said  
20   content data,

      said data providing apparatus individually distributes the content data encrypted by using said content key data and said key file received from said management apparatus to said data distribution apparatus,  
25       said data distribution apparatus individually

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distributes said distributed content data and said key  
file to said data distribution apparatus by using a  
predetermined communication protocol but in a format not  
depending upon the related communication protocol or by  
5 recording the same on a storage medium, and

said data processing apparatus decrypts said  
content key data and said usage control policy data  
stored in said distributed key file and determines the  
handling of said distributed content data based on the  
10 related decrypted usage control policy data.

211. A data providing system for providing content  
data from a data providing apparatus to a data processing  
apparatus, and managing said data providing apparatus and  
said data processing apparatus by a management apparatus,  
15 wherein

said management apparatus prepares a key file  
storing encrypted content key data and encrypted usage  
control policy data indicating the handling of said  
content data and distributes the related prepared key  
20 file to said data processing apparatus,

said data providing apparatus distributes the  
content data encrypted by using said content key data to  
said data distribution apparatus,

said data distribution apparatus distributes  
25 said provided content data to said data processing

apparatus by using a predetermined communication protocol but in a format not depending upon the related communication protocol or by recording the same on a storage medium, and

5           said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed key file and determines the handling of said distributed content data based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

10           212. A data providing system for providing content data from a data providing apparatus to a data distribution apparatus, distributing the content data from said data distribution apparatus to a data processing apparatus, and managing said data providing apparatus, said data distribution apparatus, and said data processing apparatus by a management apparatus, wherein

15           said management apparatus provides encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data to said data providing apparatus,

20           said data providing apparatus individually distributes the content data encrypted by using said content key data and said encrypted content key data and  
25           said encrypted usage control policy data received from

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said management apparatus to said data distribution apparatus,

said data distribution apparatus distributes said distributed content data, said encrypted content key data, and said encrypted usage control policy data to said data distribution apparatus by using a predetermined communication protocol but in a format not depending upon the related communication protocol or recording the same on a storage medium, and

said data processing apparatus decrypts said distributed content key data and said usage control policy data and determines the handling of said distributed content data based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

213. A data providing system for providing content data from a data providing apparatus to a data distribution apparatus, distributing the content data from said data distribution apparatus to a data processing apparatus, and managing said data providing apparatus, said data distribution apparatus, and said data processing apparatus by a management apparatus, wherein

said management apparatus provides encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data to said data

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processing apparatus,

said data providing apparatus provides the  
content data encrypted by using said content key data to  
said data distribution apparatus,

5           said data distribution apparatus distributes  
said distributed provided content data to said data  
processing apparatus by using a predetermined  
communication protocol but in a format not depending upon  
the related communication protocol or recording the same  
10 on a storage medium, and

said data processing apparatus decrypts said  
distributed content key data and said usage control  
policy data and determines the handling of said  
distributed content data based on the related decrypted  
15 usage control policy data.

214. A data providing system comprising a data  
providing apparatus, a data distribution apparatus, a  
management apparatus, and a data processing apparatus,  
wherein

20           said data providing apparatus provides master  
source data of content to said management apparatus,

said management apparatus manages said data  
providing apparatus, said data distribution apparatus,  
and said data processing apparatus, encrypts said  
25 provided master source data by using content key data to

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prepare content data, prepares a content file storing the related content data, prepares a key file storing said encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data, and provides said content file and said key file to said data distribution apparatus,

said data distribution apparatus distributes said provided content file and said key file to said data processing apparatus by using a predetermined communication protocol but in a format not depending upon the related communication protocol or recording the same on a storage medium, and

said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed key file and determines the handling of the content data stored in said distributed content file based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

215. A data providing system as set forth in claim 214, wherein

said management apparatus produces a first module storing said content file and said key file and provides the first module to said data distribution apparatus and

said data distribution apparatus produces a

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second file storing said content file and said key file stored in said first module and distributes the second module to said data providing apparatus.

216. A data providing system as set forth in claim  
5 214, wherein said management apparatus

comprises at least one database among a database for storing and managing said content file, a database for storing and managing said key file, and a database for storing and managing said usage control  
10 policy data and

centrally manages at least one among said content file, said key file, and said usage control policy data by using a content identifier uniquely allocated to said content data.

217. A data providing system as set forth in claim  
15 214, wherein said data providing apparatus provides said content key data and said usage control policy data to said management apparatus.

218. A data providing system comprising a data  
20 providing apparatus, a data distribution apparatus, a management apparatus, and a data processing apparatus, wherein

said data providing apparatus provides master source data of content to said management apparatus,

25 said management apparatus manages said data

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providing apparatus, said data distribution apparatus,  
and said data processing apparatus, encrypts said  
provided master source data by using content key data to  
prepare content data, prepares a content file storing the  
5 related content data, prepares a key file storing said  
encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control  
policy data indicating the handling of said content data,  
and provides said content file to said data distribution  
apparatus and provides said key file to said data  
10 processing apparatus,

said data distribution apparatus distributes  
said provided content file to said data processing  
apparatus by using a predetermined communication protocol  
but in a format not depending upon the related  
15 communication protocol or recording the same on a storage  
medium, and

said data processing apparatus decrypts said  
content key data and said usage control policy data  
stored in said provided key file and determines the  
20 handling of the content data stored in said distributed  
content file based on the related decrypted usage control  
policy data.

219. A data providing system comprising a data  
providing apparatus, a data distribution apparatus, a  
25 management apparatus, and a data processing apparatus,



wherein

said data providing apparatus provides a content file storing encrypted content data using content key data to said management apparatus,

5           said management apparatus manages said data providing apparatus, said data distribution apparatus, and said data processing apparatus, prepares a key file storing said encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data, and provides said content file provided from said data providing apparatus and said prepared key file to said data distribution apparatus,

10           said data distribution apparatus distributes said provided content file and said key file to said data processing apparatus by using a predetermined communication protocol but in a format not depending upon the related communication protocol or by recording the same on a storage medium, and

15           said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed key file and determines the handling of the content data stored in said distributed content file based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

20           220. A data providing system as set forth in claim

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219, wherein

said management apparatus produces a first module storing said content file and said key file and provides the first module to said data distribution

5 apparatus and

said data distribution apparatus produces a second file storing said content file and said key file stored in said first module and distributes the second module to said data providing apparatus.

10 221. A data providing system as set forth in claim 219, wherein said management apparatus

comprises at least one database among a database for storing and managing said content file, a database for storing and managing said key file, and a  
15 database for storing and managing said usage control policy data and

centrally manages at least one among said content file, said key file, and said usage control policy data by using a content identifier uniquely  
20 allocated to said content data.

222. A data providing system as set forth in claim 219, wherein said data providing apparatus provides said content key data and said usage control policy data to said management apparatus.

25 223. A data providing system comprising a data

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providing apparatus, a data distribution apparatus, a management apparatus, and a data processing apparatus, wherein

said data providing apparatus provides a  
5 content file storing encrypted content data using content key data to said management apparatus,

said management apparatus manages said data providing apparatus, said data distribution apparatus, and said data processing apparatus, prepares a key file  
10 storing said encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data, provides said content file provided from said data providing apparatus to said data distribution apparatus, and provides said prepared key file to said  
15 data processing apparatus,

said data distribution apparatus distributes said provided content file to said data processing apparatus by using a predetermined communication protocol but in a format not depending upon the related  
20 communication protocol or by recording the same on a storage medium, and

said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said provided key file and determines the  
25 handling of the content data stored in said distributed

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content file based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

224. A data providing system comprising a data providing apparatus, a data distribution apparatus, a management apparatus, a database device, and a data processing apparatus, wherein

said data providing apparatus encrypts content data by using content key data, prepares a content file storing the related encrypted content data, and stores the related prepared content file and a key file provided from said management apparatus in said database device,

said management apparatus prepares a key file storing said encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data and provides the related prepared key file to said data providing apparatus,

said data distribution apparatus distributes said content file and key file obtained from said database device to said data processing apparatus by using a predetermined communication protocol but in a format not depending upon the related communication protocol or recording the same on a storage medium, and

said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed key file and determines the

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handling of said content data stored in said distributed content file based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

225. A data providing system as set forth in claim 5 224, wherein said database device centrally manages said stored content file and key file using a content identifier uniquely allocated to said content data.

226. A data providing system as set forth in claim 224, wherein said management apparatus 10 comprises at least one database among a database for storing and managing said key file and a database for storing and managing said usage control policy data and

centrally manages at least one among said key 15 file and said usage control policy data by using a content identifier uniquely allocated to said content data.

227. A data providing system as set forth in claim 224, wherein said data providing apparatus provides said 20 content key data and said usage control policy data to said management apparatus.

228. A data providing system comprising a data providing apparatus, a data distribution apparatus, a management apparatus, a database device, and a data 25 processing apparatus, wherein

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said data providing apparatus encrypts content data by using content key data, prepares a content file storing the related encrypted content data, and stores the related prepared content file in said database

5 device,

said management apparatus prepares a key file storing said encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data and provides the related prepared key file

10 to said data providing apparatus,

said data distribution apparatus distributes said content file obtained from said database device and the key file provided from said data distribution apparatus to said data processing apparatus by using a

15 predetermined communication protocol but in a format not depending upon the related communication protocol or recording the same on a storage medium, and

said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data  
20 stored in said distributed key file and determines the handling of said content data stored in said distributed content file based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

229. A data providing system comprising a data  
25 providing apparatus, a data distribution apparatus, a

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management apparatus, a database device, and a data processing apparatus, wherein

5       said data providing apparatus encrypts content data by using content key data, prepares a content file storing the related encrypted content data, and stores the related prepared content file in said database device,

10       said management apparatus prepares a key file storing said encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data and provides the related prepared key file to said data processing apparatus,

15       said data distribution apparatus distributes said content file obtained from said database device to said data processing apparatus by using a predetermined communication protocol but in a format not depending upon the related communication protocol or recording the same on a storage medium, and

20       said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said provided key file and determines the handling of said content data stored in said distributed content file based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

25       230. A data providing system comprising a plurality

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of data providing apparatuses, a data distribution apparatus, a plurality of management apparatuses, a database device, and a data processing apparatus, wherein

5       said data providing apparatuses encrypt content data by using content key data, prepare content files storing the related encrypted content data, and store the related prepared content files and key files provided from corresponding management apparatuses in said database device,

10               said management apparatuses prepare key files storing said encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data for the content data provided by corresponding data providing apparatuses and provide the  
15       related prepared key files to corresponding data providing apparatuses,

              said data distribution apparatus distributes said content files and key files obtained from said database device to said data processing apparatus by  
20       using a predetermined communication protocol but in a format not depending upon the related communication protocol or recording the same on a storage medium, and

              said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data  
25       stored in said distributed key files and determines the

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handling of said content data stored in said distributed content files based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

231. A data providing system as set forth in claim 5 230, wherein said database device centrally manages said stored content files and key files using content identifiers uniquely allocated to said content data.

232. A data providing system as set forth in claim 230, wherein said management apparatuses

10 comprise at least one database among a database for storing and managing said key files and a database for storing and managing said usage control policy data and

centrally manage at least one among said key 15 files and said usage control policy data by using content identifiers uniquely allocated to said content data provided by said data providing apparatuses in said corresponding data providing apparatuses.

233. A data providing system as set forth in claim 20 230, wherein said data providing apparatuses provide said content key data and said usage control policy data to said management apparatuses.

234. A data providing system comprising a plurality of data providing apparatuses, a data distribution 25 apparatus, a plurality of management apparatuses, a

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database device, and a data processing apparatus, wherein

said data providing apparatuses encrypt content data by using content key data, prepare content files storing the related encrypted content data, and store the related prepared content files in said database device,

said management apparatuses prepare key files storing said encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data for the content data provided by

corresponding data providing apparatuses and provide the related prepared key files to said data distribution apparatus,

said data distribution apparatus distributes said content files obtained from said database device and the key files provided from said management apparatuses to said data processing apparatus by using a predetermined communication protocol but in a format not depending upon the related communication protocol or recording the same on a storage medium, and

said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed key files and determines the handling of said content data stored in said distributed content files based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

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235. A data providing system comprising a plurality of data providing apparatuses, a data distribution apparatus, a plurality of management apparatuses, a database device, and a data processing apparatus, wherein

5           said data providing apparatuses encrypt content data by using content key data, prepare content files storing the related encrypted content data, and store the related prepared content files in said database device,

          said management apparatuses prepare key files  
10   storing said encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data for the content data provided by corresponding data providing apparatuses and provide the related prepared key files to said data processing  
15   apparatus,

          said data distribution apparatus distributes said content files obtained from said database device to said data processing apparatus by using a predetermined communication protocol but in a format not depending upon  
20   the related communication protocol or recording the same on a storage medium, and

          said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said provided key files and determines the  
25   handling of said content data stored in said distributed

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content files based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

236. A data providing system comprising a plurality of data providing apparatuses, a data distribution apparatus, a plurality of management apparatuses, a database device, and a data processing apparatus, wherein

said data providing apparatuses provide master sources of content data to corresponding management apparatuses and store content files and key files received from the related management apparatuses in said database,

said management apparatuses encrypt said master sources received from corresponding data providing apparatuses by using content key data, prepare content files storing the related encrypted content data, prepare key files storing said encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data for the content data provided by corresponding data providing apparatuses, and send said prepared content files and said prepared key files to corresponding data providing apparatuses,

said data distribution apparatus distributes said content files and key files obtained from said database device to said data processing apparatus by using a predetermined communication protocol but in a

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format not depending upon the related communication protocol or by recording the same on a storage medium, and

said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed key files and determines the handling of said content data stored in said distributed content files based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

237. A data providing system as set forth in claim 236, wherein said database device centrally manages said stored content files and key files using content identifiers uniquely allocated to said content data.

238. A data providing system as set forth in claim 236, wherein said management apparatuses comprise at least one database among a database for storing and managing said key files and a database for storing and managing said usage control policy data and

centrally manage at least one among said key files and said usage control policy data by using content identifiers uniquely allocated to said content data provided by said data providing apparatuses in said corresponding data providing apparatuses.

239. A data providing system as set forth in claim

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236, wherein said data providing apparatuses provide said content key data and said usage control policy data to said management apparatuses.

240. A data providing system comprising a plurality  
5 of data providing apparatuses, a data distribution  
apparatus, a plurality of management apparatuses, a  
database device, and a data processing apparatus, wherein

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said data providing apparatuses provide master  
sources of content data to corresponding management  
10 apparatuses and store content files received from the  
related management apparatuses in said database,

said management apparatuses encrypt said master  
sources received from corresponding data providing  
apparatuses by using content key data, prepare content  
15 files storing the related encrypted content data, send  
the related prepared content files to said data providing  
apparatuses, prepare key files storing said encrypted  
content key data and encrypted usage control policy data  
indicating the handling of said content data for the  
20 content data provided by corresponding data providing  
apparatuses, and send the related prepared key files  
provided from said management apparatuses to  
corresponding data distribution apparatus,

said data distribution apparatus distributes  
25 said content files obtained from said database device and

key files provided from said management apparatuses to  
said data processing apparatus by using a predetermined  
communication protocol but in a format not depending upon  
the related communication protocol or by recording the  
5 same on a storage medium, and

said data processing apparatus decrypts said  
content key data and said usage control policy data  
stored in said distributed key files and determines the  
handling of said content data stored in said distributed  
10 content files based on the related decrypted usage  
control policy data.

241. A data providing system comprising a plurality  
of data providing apparatuses, a data distribution  
apparatus, a plurality of management apparatuses, a  
15 database device, and a data processing apparatus, wherein

said data providing apparatuses provide master  
sources of content data to corresponding management  
apparatuses and store content files received from the  
related management apparatuses in said database,

20 said management apparatuses encrypt said master  
sources received from corresponding data providing  
apparatuses by using content key data, prepare content  
files storing the related encrypted content data, send  
the related prepared content files to said data providing  
25 apparatuses, prepare key files storing said encrypted

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content key data and encrypted usage control policy data  
indicating the handling of said content data for the  
content data provided by corresponding data providing  
apparatuses, and send the related prepared key files to  
5 said data processing apparatus,

said data distribution apparatus distributes  
said content files obtained from said database device to  
said data processing apparatus by using a predetermined  
communication protocol but in a format not depending upon  
10 the related communication protocol or by recording the  
same on a storage medium, and

said data processing apparatus decrypts said  
content key data and said usage control policy data  
stored in said distributed key files and determines the  
15 handling of said content data stored in said provided  
content files based on the related decrypted usage  
control policy data.

242. A data providing system comprising a data  
providing apparatus, a data distribution apparatus, and a  
20 data processing apparatus, wherein

said data providing apparatus provides a first  
module storing content data encrypted by using content  
key data, said encrypted content key data, and encrypted  
usage control policy data indicating the handling of said  
25 content data to said data distribution apparatus,

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performs charge processing in units of the content data based on log data received from said data processing apparatus, and performs a profit distribution processing for distributing the profit paid by interested parties of said data processing apparatus to interested parties of the related data providing apparatus and interested parties of said data distribution apparatus,

said data distribution apparatus distributes a second module storing said encrypted content data, content key data, and usage control policy data stored in said provided first module to said data processing apparatus by using a predetermined communication protocol but in a format not depending upon the related communication protocol or by recording the same on a storage medium, and

said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed module, determines the handling of said content data based on the related decrypted usage control policy data, prepares the log data for the handling of the related content data, and sends the related log data to said data providing apparatus.

243. A data providing system as set forth in claim

242, wherein

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said data processing apparatus sends data  
distribution use apparatus use log data relating to the  
distribution service of the content data performed by the  
data distribution apparatus to said data distribution  
5 apparatus and

said data distribution apparatus performs  
charge processing based on that data distribution  
apparatus use log data.

244. A data providing system comprising a data  
10 providing apparatus, a data distribution apparatus, and a  
management apparatus, wherein

said data providing apparatus provides content  
data,

said data distribution apparatus distributes  
15 said content file provided from said data providing  
apparatus or a content file in accordance with the  
content data provided by said data providing apparatus  
provided from said management apparatus to said data  
processing apparatus, and

20 said data processing apparatus decrypts the  
usage control policy data stored in a key file received  
from said data distribution apparatus or said management  
apparatus, determines the handling of said content data  
stored in the content file received from said data  
25 distribution apparatus or said management apparatus based

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on the related decrypted usage control policy data, and  
further distributes said content file and key file  
received from said data distribution apparatus or said  
management apparatus to the other data processing  
5 apparatus.

245. A data providing method for distributing  
content data from a data providing apparatus to a data  
processing apparatus, comprising the steps of

distributing a module storing the content data  
10 encrypted by using content key data, said encrypted  
content key data, and encrypted usage control policy data  
indicating the handling of said content data from said  
data providing apparatus to said data processing  
apparatus by using a predetermined communication protocol  
15 but in a format not depending upon the related  
communication protocol or recording the same on a storage  
medium, and

in said data processing apparatus, decrypting  
said content key data and said usage control policy data  
20 stored in said distributed module and determining the  
handling of said content data based on the related  
decrypted usage control policy data.

246. A data providing method for distributing  
content data from a data providing apparatus to a data  
25 processing apparatus and managing said data providing

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apparatus and said data processing apparatus by a management apparatus, comprising the steps of,

in said management apparatus, preparing a key file storing encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data,

distributing said prepared key file from said management apparatus to said data providing apparatus, and

10 distributing a module storing a content file storing the content data encrypted by using said content key data and said key file distributed from said management apparatus from said data providing apparatus to said data processing apparatus by using a predetermined communication protocol but in a format not depending upon the related communication protocol or recording the same on a storage medium, and

15 in said data processing apparatus, decrypting said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed module and determining the handling of said content data based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

20 247. A data providing method for distributing content data from a data providing apparatus to a data processing apparatus and managing said data providing

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apparatus and said data processing apparatus by a management apparatus, comprising the steps of,

in said management apparatus, preparing a key file storing encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data,

in said data providing apparatus, distributing a module storing a content file containing the content data encrypted by using said content key data and a key file received from said management apparatus to said data processing apparatus by using a predetermined communication protocol but in a format not depending upon the related communication protocol or recording the same on a storage medium, and

in said data processing apparatus, decrypting said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed module and determining the handling of said content data based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

248. A data providing method for distributing content data from a data providing apparatus to a data processing apparatus and managing said data providing apparatus and said data processing apparatus by a management apparatus, comprising the steps of,

in said management apparatus, preparing a key

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file storing encrypted content key data and encrypted  
usage control policy data indicating the handling of said  
content data,

5 distributing the related prepared key file from  
said management apparatus to said data providing  
apparatus, and

10 individually distributing a content file  
storing the content data encrypted by using said content  
key data and said key file distributed from said  
management apparatus from said data providing apparatus  
to said data processing apparatus by using a  
predetermined communication protocol but in a format not  
depending upon the related communication protocol or  
recording the same on a storage medium, and

15 in said data processing apparatus, decrypting  
said content key data and said usage control policy data  
stored in said distributed key file and determining the  
handling of the content data stored in said distributed  
content file based on the related decrypted usage control  
20 policy data.

249. A data providing method for distributing  
content data from a data providing apparatus to a data  
processing apparatus and managing said data providing  
apparatus and said data processing apparatus by a  
25 management apparatus, comprising the steps of,

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in said management apparatus, preparing a key file storing encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data,

5 distributing the related prepared key file from said management apparatus to said data processing apparatus, and

10 distributing a content file storing the content data encrypted by using said content key data from said data providing apparatus to said data processing apparatus by using a predetermined communication protocol but in a format not depending upon the related communication protocol or recording the same on a storage medium, and

15 in said data processing apparatus, decrypting said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed key file and determining the handling of the content data stored in said distributed content file based on the related decrypted usage control  
20 policy data.

250. A data providing method for distributing content data from a data providing apparatus to a data processing apparatus and managing said data providing apparatus and said data processing apparatus by a  
25 management apparatus, comprising the steps of,

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in said management apparatus, preparing a key file storing encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data,

5 in said data providing apparatus, distributing a module storing the content data encrypted by using said content key data and said key file received from said management apparatus to said data processing apparatus by using a predetermined communication protocol but in a  
10 format not depending upon the related communication protocol or recording the same on a storage medium, and

in said data processing apparatus, decrypting said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed module and determining the  
15 handling of said content data based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

251. A data providing method for distributing content data from a data providing apparatus to a data processing apparatus and managing said data providing  
20 apparatus and said data processing apparatus by a management apparatus, comprising the steps of,

in said management apparatus, preparing a key file storing encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said  
25 content data,

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in said data providing apparatus, individually  
distributing the content data encrypted by using said  
content key data and said key file received from said  
management apparatus to said data processing apparatus by  
5 using a predetermined communication protocol but in a  
format not depending upon the related communication  
protocol or recording the same on a storage medium, and

in said data processing apparatus, decrypting  
said content key data and said usage control policy data  
10 stored in said distributed key file and determining the  
handling of said distributed content data based on the  
related decrypted usage control policy data.

252. A data providing method for distributing  
content data from a data providing apparatus to a data  
15 processing apparatus and managing said data providing  
apparatus and said data processing apparatus by a  
management apparatus, comprising the steps of,

in said management apparatus, preparing a key  
file storing encrypted content key data and encrypted  
20 usage control policy data indicating the handling of said  
content data and distributing the related prepared key  
file to said data processing apparatus, in said data  
providing apparatus,

distributing the content data encrypted by  
25 using said content key data to said data processing

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apparatus by using a predetermined communication protocol but in a format not depending upon the related communication protocol or recording the same on a storage medium, and

5                   in said data processing apparatus, decrypting said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed key file and determining the handling of said distributed content data based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

10                  253. A data providing method for distributing content data from a data providing apparatus to a data processing apparatus and managing said data providing apparatus and said data processing apparatus by a management apparatus, comprising the steps of,

15                   in said management apparatus, preparing encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data,

                  in said data providing apparatus, individually distributing the content data encrypted by using said content key data and said encrypted content key data and said encrypted usage control policy data received from said management apparatus to said data processing apparatus by using a predetermined communication protocol but in a format not depending upon the related

25                   communication protocol or recording the same on a storage

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medium, and

in said data processing apparatus, decrypting  
said distributed content key data and said usage control  
policy data and determining the handling of the content  
5 data stored in said distributed content file based on the  
related decrypted usage control policy data.

254. A data providing method for distributing  
content data from a data providing apparatus to a data  
processing apparatus and managing said data providing  
10 apparatus and said data processing apparatus by a  
management apparatus, comprising the steps of,

in said management apparatus, preparing  
encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control  
policy data indicating the handling of said content data  
15 and distributing the same to said data processing  
apparatus,

in said data providing apparatus, distributing  
the content data encrypted by using said content key data  
to said data processing apparatus by using a  
20 predetermined communication protocol but in a format not  
depending upon the related communication protocol or  
recording the same on a storage medium, and

in said data processing apparatus, decrypting  
said distributed content key data and said usage control  
25 policy data and determining the handling of said

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distributed content data based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

255. A data providing method using a data providing apparatus, a data distribution apparatus, and a data  
5 processing apparatus, comprising the steps of

providing a first module storing content data encrypted by using content key data, encrypted said content key data, and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data from said  
10 data providing apparatus to said data distribution apparatus,

distributing a second module storing said encrypted content data, content key data, and the usage control policy data stored in said provided said first  
15 module from said data distribution apparatus to said data processing apparatus by using said content key data to said data processing apparatus by using a predetermined communication protocol but in a format not depending upon the related communication protocol or recording the same  
20 on a storage medium, and

in said data processing apparatus, decrypting said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed second module and determining the handling of said content data based on the related  
25 decrypted usage control policy data.

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256. A data providing method for providing content data from a data providing apparatus to a data distribution apparatus, distributing the content data from said data distribution apparatus to a data processing apparatus, and managing said data providing apparatus, said data distribution apparatus, and said data processing apparatus by a management apparatus, comprising the steps of,

in said management apparatus, preparing a key file storing encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data,

distributing the related prepared key file from said management apparatus to said data providing apparatus,

providing a first module storing a content file storing the content data encrypted by using said content key data and said key file received from said management apparatus from said data providing apparatus to said data distribution apparatus, and

distributing a second module storing said provided content file and said key file from said data distribution apparatus to said data processing apparatus by using a predetermined communication protocol but in a format not depending upon the related communication

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protocol or recording the same on a storage medium, and  
in said data processing apparatus, decrypting  
said content key data and said usage control policy data  
stored in said distributed second module and determining  
5 the handling of said content data stored in said  
distributed second module based on the related decrypted  
usage control policy data.

257. A data providing method for providing content  
data from a data providing apparatus to a data  
10 distribution apparatus, distributing the content data  
from said data distribution apparatus to a data  
processing apparatus, and managing said data providing  
apparatus, said data distribution apparatus and said data  
processing apparatus by a management apparatus,  
15 comprising the steps of,

in said management apparatus, preparing a key  
file storing encrypted content key data and encrypted  
usage control policy data indicating the handling of said  
content data,

20 in said data providing apparatus, providing a  
first module storing a content file containing the  
content data encrypted by using said content key data and  
a key file received from said management apparatus to  
said data distribution apparatus,

25 in said data distribution apparatus,

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distributing a second module storing said provided  
content file to said data processing apparatus by using a  
predetermined communication protocol but in a format not  
depending upon the related communication protocol or  
5 recording the same on a storage medium, and

in said data processing apparatus, decrypting  
said content key data and said usage control policy data  
stored in said distributed second module and determining  
the handling of said content data stored in said  
10 distributed second module based on the related decrypted  
usage control policy data.

258. A data providing method for providing content  
data from a data providing apparatus to a data  
distribution apparatus, distributing the content data  
15 from said data distribution apparatus to a data  
processing apparatus, and managing said data providing  
apparatus, said data distribution apparatus, and said  
data processing apparatus by a management apparatus,  
comprising the steps of,

20 in said management apparatus, preparing a key  
file storing encrypted content key data and encrypted  
usage control policy data indicating the handling of said  
content data,

distributing said prepared key file from said  
25 management apparatus to said data providing apparatus,

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individually providing a content file storing  
the content data encrypted by using said content key data  
and said key file received from said management apparatus  
from said data providing apparatus to said data  
5 distribution apparatus by using a predetermined  
communication protocol but in a format not depending upon  
the related communication protocol or recording the same  
on a storage medium, and

individually distributing said distributed  
10 content file and said key file from said data  
distribution apparatus to said data distribution  
apparatus, and

in said data processing apparatus, decrypting  
said content key data and said usage control policy data  
15 stored in said distributed key file and determining the  
handling of the content data stored in said distributed  
content file based on the related decrypted usage control  
policy data.

259. A data providing method for providing content  
20 data from a data providing apparatus to a data  
distribution apparatus and managing said data providing  
apparatus and said data processing apparatus by a  
management apparatus, comprising the steps of,

in said management apparatus, preparing a key  
25 file storing encrypted content key data and encrypted

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usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data,

distributing the related prepared key file from said management apparatus to said data processing

5 apparatus,

providing a content file storing the content data encrypted by using said content key data from said data providing apparatus to said data distribution apparatus,

10 distributing said provided content file from said data distribution apparatus to said data processing apparatus by using a predetermined communication protocol but in a format not depending upon the related communication protocol or recording the same on a storage  
15 medium, and

in said data processing apparatus, decrypting said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed key file and determining the handling of the content data stored in said distributed  
20 content file based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

260. A data providing method for providing content data from a data providing apparatus to a data distribution apparatus, distributing the content data  
25 from said data distribution apparatus to a data

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processing apparatus, and managing said data providing  
apparatus, said data distribution apparatus, and said  
data processing apparatus by a management apparatus,  
comprising the steps of,

5                   in said management apparatus, preparing a key  
file storing encrypted content key data and encrypted  
usage control policy data indicating the handling of said  
content data,

10                   in said data providing apparatus, providing a  
first module storing the content data encrypted by using  
said content key data and said key file received from  
said management apparatus to said data distribution  
apparatus,

15                   in said data distribution apparatus,  
distributing a second module storing said provided  
content data and said key file to said data processing  
apparatus by using a predetermined communication protocol  
but in a format not depending upon the related  
communication protocol or recording the same on a storage  
20 medium, and

                  in said data processing apparatus, decrypting  
said content key data and said usage control policy data  
stored in said distributed second module and determining  
the handling of said content data stored in said  
25 distributed second module based on the related decrypted

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usage control policy data.

261. A data providing method for providing content  
data from a data providing apparatus to a data  
distribution apparatus, distributing the content data  
5 from said data distribution apparatus to a data

processing apparatus, and managing said data providing  
apparatus, said data distribution apparatus, and said  
data processing apparatus by a management apparatus,  
comprising the steps of,

10 in said management apparatus, preparing a key  
file storing encrypted content key data and encrypted  
usage control policy data indicating the handling of said  
content data,

15 in said data providing apparatus, individually  
providing the content data encrypted by using said  
content key data and said key file received from said  
management apparatus to said data distribution apparatus,

20 in said data distribution apparatus,  
individually distributing said distributed content data  
and said key file to said data distribution apparatus by  
using a predetermined communication protocol but in a  
format not depending upon the related communication  
protocol or recording the same on a storage medium, and

25 in said data processing apparatus, decrypting  
said content key data and said usage control policy data

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stored in said distributed key file and determining the handling of said distributed content data based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

262. A data providing method for distributing  
5 content data from a data providing apparatus to a data processing apparatus and managing said data providing apparatus and said data processing apparatus by a management apparatus, comprising the steps of,

10 in said management apparatus, preparing a key file storing encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data and distributing the related prepared key file to said data processing apparatus, in said data providing apparatus,

15 providing the content data encrypted by using said content key data to said data distribution apparatus,

20 in said data distribution apparatus, distributing said provided content data to said data processing apparatus, and

in said data processing apparatus, decrypting said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed key file and determining the handling of said distributed content data based on the  
25 related decrypted usage control policy data.

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263. A data providing method for providing content data from a data providing apparatus to a data distribution apparatus, distributing the content data from said data distribution apparatus to a data processing apparatus, and managing said data providing apparatus, said data distribution apparatus, and said data processing apparatus by a management apparatus, comprising the steps of,

in said management apparatus, providing encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data to said data providing apparatus,

in said data providing apparatus, individually distributing the content data encrypted by using said content key data and said encrypted content key data and said encrypted usage control policy data received from said management apparatus to said data distribution apparatus,

in said data distribution apparatus, individually distributing said distributed content data, said encrypted content key, data, and said encrypted usage control policy data to said data distribution apparatus by using a predetermined communication protocol but in a format not depending upon the related communication protocol or recording the same on a storage

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medium, and

in said data processing apparatus, decrypting  
said distributed content key data and said usage control  
policy data and determining the handling of said  
5 distributed content data based on the related decrypted  
usage control policy data.

264. A data providing method for providing content  
data from a data providing apparatus to a data  
distribution apparatus, distributing the content data  
10 from said data distribution apparatus to a data  
processing apparatus, and managing said data providing  
apparatus, said data distribution apparatus, and said  
data processing apparatus by a management apparatus,  
comprising the steps of,  
15 in said management apparatus, distributing  
encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control  
policy data indicating the handling of said content data  
to said data processing apparatus,  
in said data providing apparatus, providing the  
20 content data encrypted by using said content key data to  
said data distribution apparatus,  
in said data distribution apparatus,  
distributing said provided content data to said data  
processing apparatus by using a predetermined  
25 communication protocol but in a format not depending upon

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the related communication protocol by recording the same on a storage medium, and

in said data processing apparatus, decrypting said distributed content key data and said usage control policy data and determining the handling of said distributed content data based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

265. A data providing method using a data providing apparatus, a data distribution apparatus, a management apparatus, and a data processing apparatus, wherein

said data providing apparatus provides master source data of content to said management apparatus,

said management apparatus manages said data providing apparatus, said data distribution apparatus, and said data processing apparatus, encrypts said provided master source data by using content key data to prepare content data, prepares a content file storing the related content data, prepares a key file storing said encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data, and provides said content file and said key file to said data distribution apparatus,

said data distribution apparatus distributes said provided content file and said key file to said data processing apparatus by using a predetermined

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communication protocol but in a format not depending upon the related communication protocol or by recording the same on a storage medium, and

5        said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed key file and determines the handling of said content data stored in said distributed content file based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

10        266. A data providing method using a data providing apparatus, a data distribution apparatus, a management apparatus, and a data processing apparatus, wherein

      said data providing apparatus provides master source data of content to said management apparatus,

15        said management apparatus manages said data providing apparatus, said data distribution apparatus, and said data processing apparatus, encrypts said provided master source data by using content key data to prepare content data, prepares a content file storing the  
20        related content data, prepares a key file storing said encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data, and provides said content file to said data distribution apparatus and provides said key file to said data  
25        processing apparatus,

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said data distribution apparatus distributes  
said provided content file to said data processing  
apparatus by using a predetermined communication protocol  
but in a format not depending upon the related

5 communication protocol or by recording the same on a  
storage medium, and

said data processing apparatus decrypts said  
content key data and said usage control policy data  
stored in said provided key file and determines the  
10 handling of said content data stored in said distributed  
content file based on the related decrypted usage control  
policy data.

267. A data providing method using a data providing  
apparatus, a data distribution apparatus, a management  
15 apparatus, and a data processing apparatus, wherein

said data providing apparatus provides a  
content file storing encrypted content data using content  
key data to said management apparatus,

said management apparatus manages said data  
20 providing apparatus, said data distribution apparatus,  
and said data processing apparatus, prepares a key file  
storing said encrypted content key data and encrypted  
usage control policy data indicating the handling of said  
content data, and provides said content file provided  
25 from said data providing apparatus and said prepared key

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file to said data distribution apparatus,

said data distribution apparatus distributes said provided content file and said key file to said data processing apparatus by using a predetermined

5 communication protocol but in a format not depending upon the related communication protocol or by recording the same on a storage medium, and

said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data  
10 stored in said distributed key file and determines the handling of the content data stored in said distributed content file based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

268. A data providing method using a data providing  
15 apparatus, a data distribution apparatus, a management apparatus, and a data processing apparatus, wherein

said data providing apparatus provides a content file storing encrypted content data using content key data to said management apparatus,

20 said management apparatus manages said data providing apparatus, said data distribution apparatus, and said data processing apparatus, prepares a key file storing said encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said  
25 content data, provides said content file provided from

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said data providing apparatus to said data distribution apparatus and provides said prepared key file to said data processing apparatus,

5       said data distribution apparatus distributes said provided content file to said data processing apparatus by using a predetermined communication protocol but in a format not depending upon the related communication protocol or by recording the same on a storage medium, and

10       said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said provided key file and determines the handling of the content data stored in said distributed content file based on the related decrypted usage control  
15       policy data.

269. A data providing method using a data providing apparatus, a data distribution apparatus, a management apparatus, a database device, and a data processing apparatus, wherein

20       said data providing apparatus encrypts content data by using content key data, prepares a content file storing the related encrypted content data, and stores the related prepared content file and a key file provided from said management apparatus in said database device,

25       said management apparatus prepares a key file

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storing said encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data and provides the related prepared key file to said data providing apparatus,

5               said data distribution apparatus distributes said content file and key file obtained from said database device to said data processing apparatus by using a predetermined communication protocol but in a format not depending upon the related communication  
10               protocol or by recording the same on a storage medium, and

                  said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed key file and determines the  
15               handling of said content data stored in said distributed content file based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

270. A data providing method using a data providing apparatus, a data distribution apparatus, a management  
20               apparatus, a database device, and a data processing apparatus, wherein

                  said data providing apparatus encrypts content data by using content key data, prepares a content file storing the related encrypted content data, and stores  
25               the related prepared content file in said database

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device,

said management apparatus prepares a key file storing said encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data and provides the related prepared key file to said data distribution apparatus,

said data distribution apparatus distributes said content file obtained from said database device and the key file provided from said data distribution apparatus to said data processing apparatus by using a predetermined communication protocol but in a format not depending upon the related communication protocol or by recording the same on a storage medium, and

said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed key file and determines the handling of said content data stored in said distributed content file based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

271. A data providing method using a data providing apparatus, a data distribution apparatus, a management apparatus, a database device, and a data processing apparatus, wherein

said data providing apparatus encrypts content data by using content key data, prepares a content file

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storing the related encrypted content data, and stores the related prepared content file in said database device,

5       said management apparatus prepares a key file storing said encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data and provides the related prepared key file to said data processing apparatus,

10       said data distribution apparatus distributes said content file obtained from said database device to said data processing apparatus by using a predetermined communication protocol but in a format not depending upon the related communication protocol or by recording the same on a storage medium, and

15       said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said provided key file and determines the handling of said content data stored in said distributed content file based on the related decrypted usage control  
20       policy data.

272. A data providing method using a plurality of data providing apparatuses, a data distribution apparatus, a plurality of management apparatuses, a database device, and a data processing apparatus, wherein

25       said data providing apparatuses encrypt content

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data by using content key data, prepare content files  
storing the related encrypted content data, and store the  
related prepared content files and key files provided  
from corresponding management apparatuses in said

5 database device,

said management apparatuses prepare key files  
storing said encrypted content key data and encrypted  
usage control policy data indicating the handling of said  
content data for the content data provided by

10 corresponding data providing apparatuses and provide the  
related prepared key files to corresponding data  
providing apparatuses,

said data distribution apparatus distributes  
said content files and key files obtained from said  
15 database device to said data processing apparatus by  
using a predetermined communication protocol but in a  
format not depending upon the related communication  
protocol or by recording the same on a storage medium,  
and

20 said data processing apparatus decrypts said  
content key data and said usage control policy data  
stored in said distributed key files and determines the  
handling of said content data stored in said distributed  
content files based on the related decrypted usage  
25 control policy data.

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273. A data providing method using a plurality of data providing apparatuses, a data distribution apparatus, a plurality of management apparatuses, a database device, and a data processing apparatus, wherein

5           said data providing apparatuses encrypt content data by using content key data, prepare content files storing the related encrypted content data, and store the related prepared content files in said database device,

          said management apparatuses prepare key files  
10       storing said encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data for the content data provided by corresponding data providing apparatuses and provide the related prepared key files to said data distribution

15       apparatus,

          said data distribution apparatus distributes said content files obtained from said database device and the key files provided from said management apparatuses to said data processing apparatus by using a

20       predetermined communication protocol but in a format not depending upon the related communication protocol or by recording the same on a storage medium, and

          said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data

25       stored in said distributed key files and determines the

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handling of said content data stored in said distributed content files based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

274. A data providing method using a plurality of

5 data providing apparatuses, a data distribution apparatus, a plurality of management apparatuses, a database device, and a data processing apparatus, wherein

said data providing apparatuses encrypt content data by using content key data, prepare content files

10 storing the related encrypted content data, and store the related prepared content files in said database device,

said management apparatuses prepare key files storing said encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said

15 content data for the content data provided by corresponding data providing apparatuses and provide the related prepared key files to said data processing apparatus,

said data distribution apparatus distributes

20 said content files obtained from said database device to said data processing apparatus by using a predetermined communication protocol but in a format not depending upon the related communication protocol or by recording the same on a storage medium, and

25 said data processing apparatus decrypts said

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content key data and said usage control policy data  
stored in said provided key files and determines the  
handling of said content data stored in said distributed  
content files based on the related decrypted usage  
5 control policy data.

275. A data providing method using a plurality of  
data providing apparatuses, a data distribution  
apparatus, a plurality of management apparatuses, a  
database device, and a data processing apparatus, wherein

10 said data providing apparatuses provide master  
sources of content data to corresponding management  
apparatuses and store content files and key files  
received from the related management apparatuses in said  
database,

15 said management apparatuses encrypt said master  
sources received from corresponding data providing  
apparatuses by using content key data, prepare content  
files storing the related encrypted content data, prepare  
key files storing said encrypted content key data and  
20 encrypted usage control policy data indicating the  
handling of said content data for the content data  
provided by corresponding data providing apparatuses, and  
send said prepared content files and said prepared key  
files to corresponding data providing apparatuses,

25 said data distribution apparatus distributes

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said content files and key files obtained from said database device to said data processing apparatus by using a predetermined communication protocol but in a format not depending upon the related communication protocol or by recording the same on a storage medium, and

said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed key files and determines the handling of the content data stored in said distributed content files based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

276. A data providing method using a plurality of data providing apparatuses, a data distribution apparatus, a plurality of management apparatuses, a database device, and a data processing apparatus, wherein

said data providing apparatuses provide master sources of content data to corresponding management apparatuses and store content files received from the related management apparatuses in said database,

said management apparatuses encrypt said master sources received from corresponding data providing apparatuses by using content key data, prepare content files storing the related encrypted content data, send the related prepared content files to said data providing

apparatuses, prepare key files storing said encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data for the content data provided by corresponding data providing apparatuses, and send the related prepared key files to corresponding data distribution apparatus,

said data distribution apparatus distributes said content files obtained from said database device and the key files provided from said management apparatuses to said data processing apparatus by using a predetermined communication protocol but in a format not depending upon the related communication protocol or by recording the same on a storage medium, and

said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed key files and determines the handling of the content data stored in said distributed content files based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

277. A data providing method using a plurality of data providing apparatuses, a data distribution apparatus, a plurality of management apparatuses, a database device, and a data processing apparatus, wherein

said data providing apparatuses provide master sources of content data to corresponding management

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apparatuses and store content files received from the related management apparatuses in said database,

said management apparatuses encrypt said master sources received from corresponding data providing

5 apparatuses by using content key data, prepare content files storing the related encrypted content data, send the related prepared content files to said data providing apparatuses, prepare key files storing said encrypted content key data and encrypted usage control policy data  
10 indicating the handling of said content data for the content data provided by corresponding data providing apparatuses, and provide the related prepared key files to said data processing apparatus,

said data distribution apparatus distributes  
15 said content files obtained from said database device to said data processing apparatus by using a predetermined communication protocol but in a format not depending upon the related communication protocol or by recording the same on a storage medium, and

20 said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said provided key files and determines the handling of the content data stored in said distributed content files based on the related decrypted usage  
25 control policy data.

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278. A data providing method using a data providing apparatus, a data distribution apparatus, and a data processing apparatus, wherein

5       said data providing apparatus provides a first  
module storing content data encrypted by using content  
key data, said encrypted content key data, and encrypted  
usage control policy data indicating the handling of said  
content data to said data distribution apparatus,  
performs charge processing in units of the content data  
10   based on log data received from said data processing  
apparatus, performs profit distribution processing for  
distributing the profit paid by interested parties of  
said data processing apparatus to interested parties of  
the related data providing apparatus and interested  
15   parties of said data distribution apparatus,

      said data distribution apparatus distributes a  
second module storing said encrypted content data,  
content key data and usage control policy data stored in  
said provided first module to said data processing  
20   apparatus by using a predetermined communication protocol  
but in a format not depending upon the related  
communication protocol or by recording the same on a  
storage medium, and

      said data processing apparatus decrypts said  
25   content key data and said usage control policy data

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stored in said distributed module, determines the handling of said content data based on the related decrypted usage control policy data, prepares the log data for the handling of the related content data and  
5 sends the related log data to said data providing apparatus.

279. A data providing method using a data providing apparatus, a data distribution apparatus, a data processing apparatus, and a management apparatus, wherein

10 said data providing apparatus provides content data,

said data distribution apparatus distributes said content file provided from said data providing apparatus or a content file in accordance with the  
15 content data provided by said data providing apparatus received from said management apparatus to said data processing apparatus, and

said data processing apparatus decrypts the usage control policy data stored in the key file received  
20 from said data distribution apparatus or said management apparatus, determines the handling of said content data stored in the content file received from said data distribution apparatus or said management apparatus based on the related decrypted usage control policy data, and  
25 further distributes said content file and key file

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received from said data distribution apparatus or said management apparatus to the other data processing apparatus.

280. A data providing system for distributing  
5 content data from a data providing apparatus to a data processing apparatus, wherein

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10 said data providing apparatus distributes a module storing content data encrypted by using content key data, said encrypted content key data, and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data in a format not depending upon at least one among existence of a compression of said content data, a compression method, a method of said encryption, and parameters of a signal giving the content data to said  
15 data processing apparatus by using a predetermined communication protocol but in a format not depending upon the related communication protocol or by recording the same on a storage medium, and

20 said data processing apparatus decrypts said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed module and determines the handling of said content data based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

281. A data providing system as set forth in claim  
25 280, wherein



said data providing apparatus distributes said module further storing a certification data of itself in a format not depending upon the method of producing said certification data.

5           282. A data providing system comprising a data providing apparatus, a data distribution apparatus, and a data processing apparatus, wherein

              said data providing apparatus distributes a first module storing content data encrypted by using  
10   content key data, said encrypted content key data, and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data in a format not depending upon at least one among existence of compression of said content data, a compression method, a method of said  
15   encryption, and parameters of a signal giving the content data to said data distribution apparatus,

              said data distribution apparatus distributes a second module storing said encrypted content data, content key data, and the usage control policy data  
20   stored in said provided first module to said data processing apparatus by using a predetermined communication protocol but in a format not depending upon the related communication protocol or by recording the same on a storage medium, and

25           said data processing apparatus decrypts said

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content key data and said usage control policy data stored in said distributed second module and determines the handling of said content data based on the related decrypted usage control policy data.

5           283. A data providing system as set forth in claim 282, wherein said data providing apparatus provides said first module further storing its own signature data in a format not depending upon the method preparation of the signature data to said data distribution apparatus.

10           284. A data providing system comprising a data providing apparatus, a data distribution apparatus, and a data processing apparatus, wherein

              said data providing apparatus distributes a first module storing content data encrypted by using  
15 content key data, said encrypted content key data, and encrypted usage control policy data indicating the handling of said content data to said data distribution apparatus,

              said data distribution apparatus encrypts a  
20 plurality of second modules storing said encrypted content data, content key data, and the usage control policy data stored in said provided first module by using a common key obtained by mutual certification with said data processing apparatus, and then distributes the same  
25 to said data processing apparatus by using a

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predetermined communication protocol but in a format not depending upon the related communication protocol, and

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5       said data processing apparatus comprises a first processing circuit for decrypting said distributed plurality of second modules by using said common key, selecting a single or a plurality of second modules from among the related decrypted plurality of second modules, and performing charge processing with respect to a distribution service of said second modules and a tamper  
10   resistant second processing circuit receiving said selected said second modules, decrypting said content key data and said usage control policy data stored in the related second modules, and determining the handling of said content data based on the related decrypted usage  
15   control policy data.

285. A data providing system as set forth in claim 284, wherein

20       said first processing circuit produces data distribution use apparatus use log data relating to the distribution service of the second module performed by the data distribution apparatus to said data distribution apparatus and

25       said data distribution apparatus performs charge processing based on that data distribution apparatus use log data.

286. A data providing system as set forth in claim  
284,

further comprising a management apparatus for  
managing said data providing apparatus, said data  
5 distribution apparatus, and said data processing  
apparatus, wherein

said second processing circuit determines the  
handling of said content data, prepares usage log data in  
accordance with the determination, and sends the usage  
10 log data to said management apparatus, and

said management apparatus performs profit  
distribution processing for distributing the profit  
relating to the content data paid by an interested party  
of the data processing apparatus based on the usage log  
15 data to interested parties of the data providing  
apparatus and the data distribution apparatus based on  
the usage log data.

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